

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. XLV.]

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 6TH MAY, 1897.

No. 18.

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ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 1st April arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Coptic*, on the 30th April (29 days); the English mail of the 2nd April arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Rohilla*, on the 2nd May (30 days); and the German mail of the 5th April arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, on the 5th May (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Mrs. Carew arrived in Hongkong on Monday last and is now confined in Victoria Gaol.

The King of Siam, before leaving for Europe, signed a decree abolishing torture in his Kingdom.

It is proposed to levy a tax of \$1 on immigrants arriving at Singapore for the purpose of providing funds for the building of immigrants examination depots.

A disastrous fire occurred at Hachioji, a town about ten *ri* from Tokyo, on the 22nd April. 2,500 houses were destroyed and over thirty persons lost their lives.

The 10th and 11th May have been fixed for the election of the new Shanghai Municipal Council. The present Council remains in office until the day following the election.

Encouraged by the success of the Tung Chin Yuen Cotton Mill, at Ningpo, another mill, the *Mercury* says, is about to be erected there by a native syndicate with a capital of \$450,000 in 3,000 shares of \$150 each.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce was held on the 28th April.

The Indo-China steamer *Yiksang*, which went ashore at Iwayaki, has been got off and taken to Nagasaki.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 3rd May, when some discussion took place with reference to by-laws made by the Sanitary Board and submitted for approval. A number of Bills were read a first time.

A Tokyo telegram of the 23rd April says:—The outbreak of bubonic plague at Tainan is spreading very rapidly. Twenty-three fresh cases were reported on the 22nd and 23rd. This has brought the total number of cases up to 68 since the outbreak was reported.

The Arbitration Court in respect of the Korat Railway dispute has been sitting for some weeks past in London. The *Siam Observer* hears that a telegram has been received in Bangkok that the Arbitrators have disagreed, and have had to appoint an umpire, choosing a German railway expert for the purpose.

General Fernando Primo de Rivera, on his arrival at Manila to take up the appointment of Governor-General of the Philippines, issued an address to the inhabitants referring to the rebellion, and also a decree offering a free pardon to all concerned in the movement who present themselves before the 17th May.

Very discomforting news reached Foochow by telegraph on 21st April regarding the Rev. James S. Collins of the C. M. S. He was missing; and as he was on his way from Yeng Ping to Kucheng it is much feared that he was accidentally drowned. Further news regarding him is awaited with the greatest anxiety.—*Edho*.

With reference to the Imperial Railway Administration's recent indent for 11,000 tons steel rails and fastenings, we (*Peking and Tientsin Times*) learn that, Messrs. Carnegie & Co.'s tender having been withdrawn, that of Messrs. Buchheister & Co.'s for Bolckow, Vaughan & Co.'s rails has been accepted; delivery to be made this year.

Mr. S. Shimizu, the Japanese Consul, informs us that he has received a telegram from Count Okuma, Minister for Foreign Affairs, informing him that Prince Arisugawa will leave Yokohama by the M.M. steamer *Sydney* on 2nd May to attend the Jubilee celebration of H.M. the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland. He will travel incognito under the title of Count Sawa.

An inquest was held at Singapore on the 23rd April by the Coroner, Dr. T. C. Mugliston, to enquire into the cause of the recent sudden death of the late Mr. H. A. O'Brien, Acting Auditor-General. The evidence of the Government Analyst, supplemented by the evidence of those who saw the deceased after his death, was very brief, and the nature of that evidence has already appeared in our columns. The Coroner found that the deceased died from failure of the heart's action, accelerated by fever and by an accidentally self-administered over-dose of morphia.—*Straits Times*.

A temple at Tientsin was destroyed by fire on the 18th April. A festival to which only women and children were admitted was in progress at the time and a large number lost their lives, the estimates varying from thirty to a hundred.

Owing to the counterfeiters of Foochow being able to make spurious silver dollars and subsidiary coins in close imitation of the somewhat crude specimens issued by the provincial government, the authorities have decided to buy foreign machinery for the purpose and will recall all the coins at present in circulation in that city. The machine-made silver money is very difficult to imitate with the limited means possessed by the people.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Tientsin reports concerning the railway between that city and Peking announce the near completion of that line and that it has been decided to despatch three trains daily from each of the starting points. The fare will be 2,180 *cash*, or at present exchange about \$2.40 per trip for each person, who will be allowed 200 catties weight of baggage. Any baggage beyond that weight will be charged for. H.E. Hu Yu-fen, Governor of Peking and Director-General of the road, was expected to arrive at Tientsin from Peking on the 20th April, travelling by train on a tour of inspection.—*N. C. Daily News*.

With respect to the famine now raging in the eastern part of Szechuan, on account of which an appeal has been made by Szechuan merchants trading at Shanghai to foreigners there, an Imperial edict was, we learn from the *N. C. Daily News*, issued on the 20th April commanding that the sum of Tls. 100,000 be paid out of the Privy Purse and sent to the Viceroy of Szechuan to relieve the distress. Simultaneously, Western Hupeh adjoining Szechuan is also visited by a severe famine and a further sum from the same source of Tls. 50,000 is also ordered to be paid to the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung for distribution in famine relief in that province. The money noted above is said to be a portion of the result of the Palace economies inaugurated by the Empress-Dowager and held in reserve as an Emergency Fund.

The Hangchow correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—So much has been said *pro* and *con* (most of it *con*) respecting the new Imperial Post that your correspondent ventures to refer to the subject with some diffidence. But where so much has been said against an institution it is only fair to speak a good word for it where it is possible. Whatever may have been the experience of those ports which were fortunate enough to possess local posts, I am sure that most, if not all, of the foreigners in Hangchow will agree that the new Post Office is a great improvement on the old system so far as Hangchow is concerned. Our able and obliging post-master, Mr. McPhail, sees to it that our letters are delivered with the utmost promptitude, and so far as your correspondent and the mission with which he is connected are concerned, we welcome the new innovation and wish Sir Robert Hart every success in his latest venture. The only thing that we have to complain about so far is the very small weight allowance— $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. for 2c. letters. It is scarcely possible to write a decent letter and keep it within the $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. limit. Perhaps some change will be forthcoming before long in this respect.

HAWAII AND JAPAN.

The continued existence of the Hawaiian Islands as an independent state may possibly prove impracticable owing to the personnel of their population. The natives no longer form even a majority of the inhabitants and there are at least four large sections of the population who may at any time cause the sudden downfall of the administration if not a condition of revolution. The probable number of inhabitants is about 90,000, of whom at least 20,000 are Chinese, 15,000 Japanese, 9,000 Portuguese, and some 10,000 to 12,000 other whites of European or American descent. The balance represents the natives and half breeds. It will be apparent, therefore, that any measure affecting the interests of one of these large sections of the population is liable at any time to create trouble and perhaps bring the administrative machine to a deadlock. A difficulty has lately arisen, the final issue of which it is not easy to foresee. The Japanese emigration to the islands has been going on steadily for many years, and the emigrants have found profitable employment there. Many of them send considerable sums of money (the fruit of their labour on the plantations) home to Japan, and a good number have also returned to the land of the Rising Sun with their savings. Having found the islands a lucrative field for their labour, if not exactly an El Dorado, the Japanese peasants flock there in the hope of bettering their condition by amassing a little capital. The Hawaiian Government appear, however, to think the country contains a sufficient number of Japanese, and have determined to restrict the number. On the arrival recently of the steamer *Shinchiu Maru* at Honolulu with 655 emigrants only 124 were permitted to land, on the ground that their landing was contrary to certain regulations relating to the landing of immigrants. It seems that 180 of the emigrants, sent by the Kobe Toko Kaisha, really violated the regulations under which immigration is allowed, notably that requiring each man to have in his possession the sum of fifty dollars. The other 351 men, shipped under the auspices of the Nippon Emigration Company of Osaka and a similar body of Hiroshima were so provided, but the Hawaiian Government rejected them on the ground that, so soon as they were landed, they would have to return the money to the companies who had shipped them. Whether this is the fact we are not in a position to say; probably it is a very good guess at the truth. But the measure adopted, compelling their return, seems high handed to the Japanese, and has certainly given offence to the Government and Press of Tokyo. The result is that a Japanese man-of-war has been despatched to Honolulu, and the *Yomiuri Shimbun* is excitedly asking what the Consul-General in Hawaii was about to permit the affront to Japan. The affair will probably end in the protest now being made by the Japanese Government, and a little flourish with the warship,—for the time.

But for the future? The Japanese Government are developing a policy and a navy, and as the latter is costing a vast sum, it is not impossible they may wish some fine day to turn it to profitable account. When Japan has acquired the greatest navy in Asia, and has become one of the maritime Powers of the world, is it not likely she will seriously object to her subjects being debarred from settling in the Hawaiian Islands? The present republic established at Honolulu forcibly disesta-

blished the kingdom, and if this assembly of island notables succeeds in picking a quarrel with Japan, would it be worth the while of either Great Britain or the United States to take up the cudgels on their behalf? For it stands to reason that the island Government could not exist a day if Japan made cause of quarrel with it. The United States would not wish to see Hawaii become a colony of Japan, nor probably would Great Britain care to have the Japanese established in the Pacific in a position of such strategical importance; but it is not at all impossible that such a fate may befall the islands if their Government does not go warily. The latter have apparently taken alarm at the increasing numbers of the Japanese immigrants, and have rather tactlessly sought, by the first means to hand, to impose a check on their influx into the islands. The only result has been to provoke an issue; the Tokyo Government are now alive to the fact that Japanese are unwelcome in Hawaii, and they have strongly protested against this new method of dealing with unwished for immigrants. The United States Government are reported to be sending a man-of-war to Honolulu, but it is unlikely that they would do more than give the Hawaiian Republic moral support if it came to an open rupture with Japan. The latter meantime will not go out of her way to raise a quarrel, but she will be sure to keep a sharp look out on the actions of the Hawaiian Government in future. Nor is it likely that Japan will consent to abandon the islands as a field for emigration because her people are not acceptable to the newly fledged Republic. There are not so many outlets for Japanese surplus labour that the Tokyo Government can afford to relinquish one where the conditions are so eminently favourable not alone for their remunerative employment but also for their efficient protection. Had the Japanese only discovered this field some twenty years earlier, there is little doubt but that the islands would have in good time fallen under their dominion. Matters are complicated now by the presence of a large Chinese element, while the ruling element is Caucasian and the United States takes them under the protection of the Stars and Stripes. Unless, however, the American Republic sees fit to abandon its traditional policy and incorporate Hawaii into the United States, the chances are still not so very remote that this beautiful group will one day become a portion of the "Mikado's Empire."

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING.

The remarks made by Mr. T. JACKSON at the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce will be endorsed by the members and the community generally. The Chamber, as Mr. JACKSON says, has never shown itself more energetic or more useful than during the past year, and if it perseveres with the same energy, moderation, and ability its efforts will be entirely in the right direction and will do a great deal of good. The usefulness of the Chamber has been materially enhanced by the practice now adopted of publishing abstracts of the proceedings of the Committee, a matter to which approving reference was made by Mr. C. S. SHARP in seconding the adoption of the report. This policy of keeping the community informed of what is being done serves as a healthy stimulus to public opinion, strengthens the hands of the Committee, and increases the

effective vitality of the Chamber. One of its consequences, however, is that it leaves little that is new to be embodied in the annual report or said at the annual meeting. The most important subjects touched upon were the opening of the West River and the settlement of the transit pass question in the Two Kwang, and the community at large will heartily endorse the encomiums passed upon Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD and Mr. E. H. FRASER, the Acting Consul at Canton, in connection with these matters. The question of an increase of the Chinese tariff, though important, is still in the clouds and does not call for special notice in a review of the Chamber's meeting. The questions mentioned which are still pending are of purely local interest. Taking these in the order in which they are referred to we come first to the complaint as to the late delivery of the mails. The Chairman, Mr. HERBERT SMITH, said that though increased accommodation had been provided for the Post Office, the lack of which was believed to be the cause of the delay that occurred in the delivery of the mails, he regretted that he could not record any improvement in the administration of the Department, delays in the delivery of the mails being more frequent than ever, to the great inconvenience of the entire commercial community. This is a serious complaint, and, unfortunately, it is only too well founded. The Postmaster-General's annual report, which will shortly be published, may explain the reason and suggest the remedy, but however this may be it is certain that the present state of things cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely. If the Postmaster-General cannot himself secure the necessary facilities for carrying on the work of his department his hands will have to be strengthened by the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry. The other matters to which we propose to refer arise out of the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD's speech. The hon. gentleman is to be congratulated or the vigour with which, standing alone in Council, he fought the light dues question, and on the success which has attended his efforts and the representations of the shipping community. Another matter mentioned by the hon. gentleman was the sanitation of the colony and the amendment of the Public Health Ordinance. He complains of the inaction of the Government, but seeing that a Commission was appointed in connection with the subject we cannot see that the Government is greatly to be blamed for deferring action until it has the Commission's report before it, for the legislation to be passed will be the more likely to meet the requirements if it is founded on the most complete information. Mr. WHITEHEAD also mentioned the opium tax and the method of its collection. The Farm system, he says, is not only antiquated but seriously affects the freedom of the port. The alternative suggested by Mr. WHITEHEAD is a bonded warehouse and a fixed duty on all opium not *bona fide* exported in a raw state. The evils of the present system are great and indisputable and a rich meed of praise awaits the man who can show the colony how these evils can be abolished without detriment to the revenue. Whether the establishment of a bonded warehouse would meet the case seems at first view somewhat doubtful, but the scheme has not yet been fully formulated, and Mr. WHITEHEAD may have recommendations to make that will overcome the difficulties. Speaking, however, on the matter as it stands it would seem that even though a bonded warehouse were established and a fixed duty charged on all

raw opium not *bona fide* exported a large staff of excise officers would still be required to exercise the same inquisitorial functions that are exercised by the Opium Farm's officers in order to prevent opium, either raw or prepared, being clandestinely introduced into the colony in passengers' baggage and through other channels. It is to be regretted that the Government has not yet seen its way to appoint a Commission to enquire into the whole question, as asked for some time ago by Mr. WHITEHEAD.

SHANGHAI AND ITS GOVERNMENT.

In an article on the approaching election of a new Municipal Council at Shanghai the *Mercury*, after expressing satisfaction that the ratepayers are likely to have a sufficient number of names from which to select a really efficient Council, goes on to say:—"It is, however, well that the ratepayers should remember that very much depends on the issue of the coming election, and that the mere question of the wheelbarrow licences, although the immediate cause of the failure of the last Council, was only contributory, and that sooner or later the catastrophe was bound to come. The great industrial change, the foundations of which indeed were laid some fifteen years ago, but which has only become strongly marked within the last four, has altered profoundly our social organisation. Not only has the population of the Settlements increased in number, but it has altered in kind. We have to meet the difficulty imposed on us by the presence of an enormous population of mill workers, probably considerably exceeding at the moment thirty thousand, and rapidly increasing. The pressure of this large and eminently unstable class has pressed on the means of accommodation, and has overflowed into the contiguous quarters, and has more or less disjoined the entire system of administration." Our contemporary then goes on to point out that the municipal expenditure has for some time past exceeded the revenue and that additional expenditure will now have to be incurred for an increase in the Police Force. The financial difficulty, however, is, we should imagine, one of the least of those with which the new Council will have to deal. What is required at Shanghai is to set the municipal authority on a firm basis, not only as regards its right of legislation, but its right and ability to enforce its laws. What happened the other day in connection with the wheelbarrow riot is fresh in the minds of the public. It may be well now to recall an incident of six years ago which, though in a less disastrous manner, exhibited with equal clearness the disorder prevailing in the administration of the Model Settlement and the consequences of divided authority. The China Merchants S.N. Co. rented from the late firm of RUSSELL & Co. certain premises which it was claimed belonged to the HOWQUA family, but which RUSSELL & Co. managed in their own name. On the failure of RUSSELL & Co. the China Merchants Co., who figured amongst the creditors of the estate, discontinued the payment of rent, which they apparently intended to retain as a set off against their claim. Thereupon Mr. H. S. WILKINSON, acting on behalf of the trustees of RUSSELL & Co.'s estate, caused the premises to be seized, early on the morning of the 18th September, 1891. When Mr. CHAN FAI-TING, the manager, arrived at his office in the morning he found the

doors closed. Thereupon he applied to the police, but getting no satisfaction from them, he collected a force of the Company's coolies and led them to the office. In view of this force the eight foreigners in possession retired, and the Company's representatives resumed possession. While these proceedings were going on it was expected that some disturbance would occur, to prevent which a strong force of police was drafted to the spot, a party of blue-jackets from H.M.S. *Caroline* was landed, and the Taotai sent a party of Chinese soldiers. Fortunately, however, all passed off quietly, but the net result was that in the so-called British concession a Chinese Company forcibly ejected a party of foreigners placed, under legal advice, in possession of certain premises the title to which was in dispute. At the time of the revision of the Land Regulations in 1866 it was stated in the memorandum accompanying the Committee's report that all idea of asking for a charter of incorporation had been willingly abandoned. We can only repeat now, what we said when discussing in 1891 the dispute with reference to the China Merchants' premises, that it would be desirable to reconsider that question and take steps for placing the Government of the Settlements on a more satisfactory and stable basis. The object to be aimed at should be to make the Settlements a free city, so far as may be consistent with preserving a nominal recognition of China's eminent domain. We sometimes envy our friends in the North the freedom they enjoy in the management of their own affairs, but we may at least congratulate ourselves that in this colony disputes as to the possession of land are not decided by marching an army of a few hundred coolies to the spot. The local papers were at the time very angry with the Taotai for sending soldiers to the China Merchants Co.'s premises, but if it be conceded that the dispute affected Chinese subjects only it is difficult to question the right of the Taotai to send such a force as he considered necessary to protect the interests of the parties concerned. In the more recent case of the wheelbarrow riots the resolution of the ratepayers was set aside and terms made behind their back between the Consuls and the Taotai which seriously compromised the dignity and authority of the ratepayers as a self-governing community. To prevent the intrusion of the Chinese Authorities in the Settlements it is time that Shanghai considered its position and took another step forward.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

We have heard little of late concerning retrenchment in the public expenditure of Hongkong, a matter which excited so much attention a year or two ago, and it would seem that the question is to be allowed to die a natural death. The cost of government has during recent years grown at a great rate, but Hongkong is not singular in that respect, having for its companions all or most of the great States of the world. This subject has attracted the attention of the esteemed *Spectator*, which expresses a wish that some considerable economist who is also a statesman would explain in a convincing way the cause of the extraordinary change which has come over the free peoples in the matter of public thrift. "Men still living can remember well when in France every half-million of State expenditure was watched with grudging jealousy, when JOSEPH HUME was an

"object of dread to every department of the British Government"—just as Mr. WHITEHEAD is to-day an object of dread to every department of the Hongkong Government,—and when every American "boasted that under the Federal system a citizen was almost untaxed, that pensions were unknown and impossible, and that the idea of a National Debt was as much hated as that of a standing army. . . . The desire for thrift was, in fact, so strong that it excited temper, and the populace were as irritably unreasonable as a wife over-pressed by her household economies when she hears that her husband has been committing some extravagance. The 'ignorant impatience of taxation' became a commonplace not only with statesmen but historians. So completely has that mood disappeared that it has become nearly unintelligible. The French Budget has risen to more than double its old figures, and whenever the Ministry make a new demand it is always, after discussion, voted. The British Estimates exceed a hundred millions sterling, and except as excuses for discussion on side-issues the debates on the Estimates are absolutely perfunctory, neither dreaded by the officials nor cared about by the electors. In the United States the Pension List is actually twelve millions sterling in excess of the whole national expenditure of the Republic in 1847, and the people are content that it should be so." Our contemporary indulges in some interesting reflections on this subject, including the tendency to throw taxation more and more on to the well-to-do classes, and says it would not be greatly surprised to know that England, France, and the United States were in 1950 paying double their present taxes and were still able to bear the burden without thinking of civil war. Little is said in the article, however, about the reasons of the increased expenditure, though these are not very far to seek. Increased armaments account for some of it, but if the cost of these is only commensurate with the greater magnitude of the interests to be protected the body of taxpayers has no more reason to complain than a property owner who, adding house to house, finds his account for fire insurance increasing. On the civil side the increase in expenditure is to be accounted for not only by the natural increase in population, but also by the fact that with the growth of the intelligence, education, and general well-being of a nation, additional duties and responsibilities are thrown on the Government in departments of life in which Governmental intrusion was, in former ages either wholly unknown or very slight. Thus of the civil expenditure of the United Kingdom more than half is accounted for under the headings of education, science, art, and charity. In Hongkong, also, a good deal of the increased expenditure can be looked on with equanimity, being of such a character as to yield the taxpayers a good return for their money in increased comforts and conveniences. Hongkong is a very much more agreeable place to live in to-day than it was twenty-five years ago and the public cannot object to paying on a reasonable scale for the increased agreeableness. But we have it on the authority of the Governor that the service is overmanned, and it is natural that the ratepayers should object to having to pay salaries to gentlemen who are almost if not quite qualified for admission to the society mentioned by IAN McLAREN under the name of "Sons of Rest," whose members have a conscientious objection to work between meals.

HASTY LEGISLATION.

The objection of the unofficial members of Council to being called upon to approve by-laws passed by the Sanitary Board before they have had adequate time to peruse and study them is well founded. The only fault to be found with it is that it does not go quite far enough, for the same objection ought to be raised in the case of Bills brought before the Council before they have been duly published in the *Gazette*. The Parliamentary Committee which inquired into the grievances of Hongkong in the forties recommended that all laws should be published six months before they were brought into force. We do not ask for any such extreme delay as that, but, except in cases of extreme urgency, all Bills should be published in the *Gazette* before they are introduced for first reading. It is true the standing orders provide for publication before final passing, but that is not sufficient, and on this point the orders call for amendment. An example will show the inadequacy of the present rule. The last meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Monday and several Bills of more or less importance were introduced for first reading. The standing orders provide that "After being read a 'first time every Bill shall be published in 'the Government Gazette for general information.'" The Bills read a first time on Monday last will accordingly be published in the *Government Gazette* of Saturday next, which many of the subscribers receive only on Sunday morning. The Council stands adjourned until Monday next, when the Bills introduced at the last meeting will in ordinary course be read a second time, and, if there is no material amendment, may be passed. Thus the public have only a little over twenty-four hours' notice of the contents of the Bills, and the greater part of that time falls on Sunday, a non-working day. Such notice, we venture to say, is altogether insufficient. It may be replied that the unofficial members may ask for delay if they wish to consult their constituents or have reason to suppose that any suggestions are to be made. But an ounce of fact is worth a pound of theory. The Bill authorising the levying of the Gap Rock light dues was rushed through Council, the second and third reading being taken on the same day. A suggestion was made in this column—which unfortunately did not appear until the next day, when it was too late—that the Bill should contain a provision for the cessation of the dues when the purpose for which they were levied was fulfilled. Had there been an opportunity of making the suggestion in time it would undoubtedly have been adopted, for the Government and the unofficial members were in complete accord at that time and the understanding was that the dues should cease when the light was paid for, but instead of embodying this understanding in the Bill, a verbal promise from the Governor was considered sufficient. Had more time been allowed for the consideration of the Bill no doubt a special account would have been kept of the Gap Rock light dues, which would have been thus kept separate from general revenue, and the recent discussion and the exercise of pressure to make the Government keep its word would have been saved. So much for the importance of adequate publication of Bills. As to the by-laws passed by the Sanitary Board, which have to be approved by the Legislative Council before becoming operative, it was suggested that the unofficial

members might have made themselves acquainted with the nature of the by-laws by reading the newspaper reports of the proceedings of the Sanitary Board. It is not for us to minimise the importance and value of newspaper reports; but possibly the unofficial members may share with the Government the error of not paying sufficient attention to what appears in the papers. At all events we venture to say the Colonial Secretary would not consider a newspaper report sufficient notice of the proceedings of say the Chamber of Commerce on any point calling for official action.

PUBLIC COMPANIES AND NEW ISSUES OF CAPITAL.

It is said a coach and four can be driven through any Act of Parliament. This operation has been performed perhaps more frequently in connection with the Public Companies Acts than any other, more especially in connection with reconstruction schemes. A fundamental principle of Limited Company law is that the liability of shareholders is limited to the amount of their shares, and consequently when the full amount of the shares has been paid up the shareholder imagines that he is safe from further calls. This assumed safety, however, can be destroyed by a reconstruction scheme under which the assets of the old company are sold to a new company, the consideration being partially paid shares in the new company to be distributed *pro rata* amongst the shareholders in the old company, who thus find themselves in the position of either having to accept a further liability or to sacrifice their interest altogether by refusing to take up the new shares. Reconstruction schemes of this kind no doubt afford a ready means of raising additional capital when it is required, and if the majority of the shareholders approve of the operation it may be taken as evidence of their belief in the *bona fide* and promising character of the enterprise. Nevertheless such schemes should be carefully scrutinised by the courts before which they come for approval, for they must almost inevitably bear hardly on a certain section of the shareholders to whom the new liability will come as an inconvenience, people, for instance, of small incomes who have invested their savings in a certain enterprise and have not the means of paying further calls, or people who, having retired from business and being dependent upon the returns derived from investments, are not prepared to sink additional money in enterprises of a speculative character. The interests of shareholders of this class deserve consideration at the hands of the courts, and none the less because the same reasons that render it inconvenient for them to make further contributions to the capital of the company would also prevent them from entering on a costly law suit to oppose the scheme. On the other hand, where an enterprise suffers from want of additional capital or may even be in danger of being wrecked, and some of the shareholders are prepared to make further contributions to protect their existing interest, it would seem unreasonable that the matter should be blocked out of consideration for those who are unwilling or unable to put up more money. In such cases the issue of additional capital, either in the form of ordinary or preference shares, presents itself as an alternative scheme. In the case of a flourishing company that simply requires additional capital to extend a lucrative business such shares would be eagerly applied for and might be issued at a premium, as has been

the case with several of our local companies, but in the case of a company in difficulties no one is likely to subscribe additional capital voluntarily unless on terms which will secure to him the advantages expected to accrue from such additional capital; in other words, a shareholder willing to subscribe for the protection of his own interest might not unreasonably object to being called upon to share the advantages equally with his fellow shareholders who decline to subscribe. In such cases the difficulty may be overcome by reducing the existing capital by the same amount as the new capital to be proposed issued. A simple sum in arithmetic will show that the relative interests of the subscribers of the new capital will then be increased in proportion to their increased risk, whereas without such reduction their interest remains the same in proportion to the amount of their investment as that of the shareholders who do not subscribe. For instance, let it be assumed that a company exists with a capital of \$2,000 divided into ten shares of \$200 each and that it is found necessary by reason of the loss of part of the original capital to raise another \$1,000, which is done by the issue of ten additional shares of \$100 each, without any writing down of the old capital; if five of the shareholders stand out and the new shares are taken up by the other five at the rate of two each the latter will be in no better position than the former except that having invested twice the amount they will be entitled to twice the dividend, if there should ever be a dividend; whereas if the original capital were written down by \$1,000 the five subscribers for the new shares would each have an interest of three-twentieths in the concern and the five non-subscribers for the new shares would have their interest (originally one tenth) reduced to one-twentieth. In this way an inducement is held out to shareholders to contribute the new capital rateably to their existing holdings while at the same time those who cannot do so are still allowed to retain a fair interest in the property, which, under a scheme of reconstruction, they would either have to sacrifice or hold subject to a liability for further calls. In settling the affairs of large companies minute calculations of this kind are not in much favour, or may even be considered absurd; any additional capital required is raised by what appear the readiest means at the moment, and the different classes of shares are left to find their own value on the open market, greatly to the profit of those shareholders and operators who are able to make independent calculations for themselves and to the loss of those who take it for granted that what the directors decide must necessarily be fair and equitable. A new issue of capital is now under consideration in connection with the Punjom Mining Co., and considering the excellent prospects before the Company there will be no difficulty in getting it readily subscribed. The only problem before the directors and shareholders is to arrange the issue on equitable terms having regard to the fact that there are absent shareholders who will probably not be prepared to take up their respective allotments.

The second general meeting of the China Flour Mill Co., Limited, was held at Shanghai on the 26th April at the office of the General Agents, Mr. Alex. McLeod presiding and stating that it was hoped to commence work in September next. The report and accounts were adopted and the formal business transacted.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE MEMORIAL.

The compromise arrived at with respect to the Diamond Jubilee Memorial does credit to the committee and will be satisfactory to the community. No doubt there are many who would have liked the whole fund to be devoted to hospital purposes, and as many on the other side who would have liked to see it devoted solely to the road round the island, but the desire of all parties on such an occasion must be to unite the whole community in common action, and for that, seeing opinions were divided, some "give and take" was necessary. Both the objects decided upon are good, and although questions might be raised, as they have been, as to whether the road was not an essentially Government work, considerations of that kind may now be waived, and it only remains for the public to come forward with liberal subscriptions. Having previously taken exception to the inadequately representative character of the committee appointed by H.E. the Governor it affords us the greater pleasure now to be able to congratulate that body on the manner in which it has discharged its duties up to the present point. The compromise arrived at displays good feeling and good sense. We trust the committee may be as successful in satisfying the public with regard to the celebrations, but it will not be such an easy matter to arrange a programme for public rejoicings in June as it would have been had the date fallen in the cool season. Illuminations at that time of the year, when rain is so frequent, seem to be almost out of the question, for a shower would spoil the whole display.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held at the Council Chamber on the 3rd May. Present:—

His EXCELLENCY the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.
His EXCELLENCY Major-General BLACK, C.B. (Officer Commanding the Forces).
Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART (Colonial Secretary).
Hon. W. M. GOODMAN (Attorney-General).
Hon. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Colonial Treasurer).
Hon. F. A. COOPER (Director of Public Works).
Hon. F. H. MAY (Captain Superintendent of Police).
Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).
Hon. C. P. CHATER.
Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.
Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.
Hon. HO KAI.
Hon. WEI A YUK.
Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE (Acting Clerk of Councils).

NEW MEMBER.

Hon. T. Sercombe Smith was sworn in on taking his seat as Colonial Treasurer.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

PAPERS.

The Colonial Secretary laid a budget of Government papers on the table.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

Financial minute No. 28 of 1896 and Financial minutes Nos. 1 to 9, 1897, were referred to the Finance Committee.

THE AFFORESTATION DEPARTMENT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—With reference to the statement by the Superintendent of the Afforestation Department I have just laid on the table I beg to move—"That the Council, having considered the statement drawn up by the Superintendent of the Afforestation De-

partment, resolves that it is expedient to incur the liability proposed to be incurred in 1899."

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.
Carried.

SPECIAL GAP ROCK LIGHTHOUSE DUES.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—The resolution of which I gave notice on the 14th December last reads—"That, whereas the special Gap Rock light dues were imposed for the sole purpose of raising the monies required for the construction of the said lighthouse, and the Government are pledged to their abolition as soon as the requisite amount had been raised, and whereas it appears that a sum of about \$42,000 in excess of the amount required has already been received—Resolved that in the opinion of this Council the special Gap Rock light dues should no longer be levied." With reference to this resolution certain correspondence has since been received from the Colonial Office, including the Secretary of State's Despatch, dated 17th March last. Paragraph 2 of that despatch concludes by saying—"I concur in your view that moderate dues may properly be levied in Hongkong, provided the proceeds do not in ordinary times exceed the total expenditure on the Harbour Department, including Lighthouses, Water Police, etc." and Paragraph 5 says—"Next year the charge must be reduced to such a rate as will, with the other harbour receipts, be sufficient to cover all harbour and lighthouse expenditure, &c." That correspondence and these instructions render this resolution now unnecessary and with the permission of the Council I wish to withdraw it.

His EXCELLENCY—Certainly.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—In connection with the subject I beg to give notice that at the next meeting of Council I will ask the following question:—Will the Government lay upon the table a detailed statement framed in terms of and in accordance with the instructions contained in the Secretary of State's despatch, dated 17th March, 1897, showing (1) the estimated total revenue which will be receivable from all shipping, separately under each head, during the year 1898, and (2) the estimated total expenditure which will be chargeable to all shipping, separately under each head, during the same period?

THE SANITARY MAINTENANCE OF OPIUM DIVANS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to bring up certain by-laws made under sub-Sections 4, 12, and 13 of Section 13 of Ordinance 24 of 1887 for the cleansing, lime-whiting, and sanitary maintenance of opium smoking divans and for the prevention of overcrowding therein, and I beg to move that they be approved.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—In reference to the question of opium divans I understand that this morning a petition was addressed to the Council by the opium farmer applying to be heard by counsel in connection with these proposed by-laws. I have a copy of the petition in my hands. Rule No. 52 of the Standing Rules and Orders of Council reads:—"In any case where individual rights or interests of property may be peculiarly affected by any proposed Bill, all parties interested may, upon petition for that purpose, and on motion made, seconded, and carried, be heard in Council, or in Committee thereof, either in person or by counsel." I submit, Sir, that this is a case where the opium farmer should be heard by counsel before these by-laws are brought into force. A copy of the petition from the opium farmer, dated as long ago as January of this year, has been submitted to me, and the case made out by the opium farmer in that petition is, in my opinion, a very good one.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD then read the petition and proceeded—I think, Sir, this is certainly a case where the opium farmer ought to be heard by his counsel and I beg to move that he be now heard.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—From the petition just read it appears that the opium farmer at all events thinks he will be injuriously affected by these by-laws, should they be passed. Without going into the question of whether or not he will be injuriously affected I am of opinion, as he says he will be affected, that he should be allowed to represent his case by counsel. I

have therefore much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I would like in the first place to point out that I am not aware of any power under the Standing Orders for counsel to be heard as suggested by the hon. member. The hon. member, when he read the Standing Order No. 52, did not seem to quite appreciate the wording of it. The words are "In any case where individual rights or interests of property may be affected by any proposed Bill," etc.; that is to say, any Ordinance brought forward which may prejudicially affect property. I have yet to learn that counsel have been heard in this Legislative Council when by-laws were being brought forward for approval. Bills are not by-laws and there is nothing in the Standing Orders to give any such power. It seems to me that the petition will speak for itself, and I do not know that even if counsel were more could be said upon the subject. For heard some time past it has been discovered—at all events during the past year the matter has been prominently brought to the attention of the Government—that the opium divans were greatly overcrowded at night and that they therefore formed an excellent place for the propagation of disease. It is desirable in the interests of the people in this colony to stop the propagation of disease and the Government is now doing all in its power to stop such propagation. The Sanitary Board called attention to the state of these divans, but it is not proposed to put into force any new power, but powers which have been in force for nearly ten years. These powers are under Ordinance 24 of 1887—the Public Health Ordinance—and Section 13 provides that the Sanitary Board shall have power to make by-laws for the sanitary maintenance of common lodging houses, opium smoking divans, factories, &c. It will be fresh within the members' recollection that difficulties arose about the common lodging houses—difficulties which have now been surmounted. We were told that there were insuperable objections, but all those terrors are passed. Common lodging houses are now properly conducted and what is now required is that smoking divans should conform to the ordinary principles of health and that they should not form centres for the propagation of disease in the colony. It may be thought that the Government was acting hardly with the opium farmer and oppressing him, but the by-laws were roughly drafted, and on the 22nd October, 1896, the opium farmer having been furnished with a copy, presented his petition, embodying his objections and asking that those by-laws should not be enforced. Considerable care was then taken and they were thoroughly revised before being brought before the Legislative Council and another edition was made; indeed there were three editions, and the third edition eliminated all the things that could be eliminated or reasonably be found fault with and that would press hardly on the opium farmer. The by-laws as they stand at present were sent to the opium farmer, with the following letter dated 31st March, 1897, to his solicitors, Messrs. Deacon and Hastings:—"Gentlemen,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th January forwarding a petition from the Man Fook Company on the subject of certain by-laws made by the Sanitary Board on the 21st December with regard to opium smoking divans. In reply I am to inform you that your clients' petition has been carefully considered and the by-laws have been revised with a view to prevent the infliction of any apparent hardship upon your clients, but that it is necessary to consider the public health, and the granting of the Opium Farm in no way implied that the Sanitary Board should be precluded from making by-laws in pursuance of the powers conferred upon it under the Public Health Ordinance of 1887, which was in force when that contract was made. I enclose for your clients' information a copy of the most recently made by-laws which will be submitted for the approval of the Legislative Council when it next meets.—I have the honour to be, &c., J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary." This is not any new law which we are putting in force. The opium farmer knew, or ought to have

known, when he made his contract, that the Sanitary Board could make such by-laws. Precisely the same argument might be used by any Crown tenant. He might just as well say, "When I made my contract there was nothing to prevent me from building my houses as I liked or overcrowding them and thereby getting extra rent. Since that time they have introduced new laws and consequently I shall refuse to pay my Crown rent." I defy any hon. member to find any fault with the analogy. The contract was made with the Government, the opium farmer seems to have taken a good deal of licence, and he knew the Sanitary Board could stop some of that licence. Every Crown tenant must submit to the law and so must the opium farmer. If he has been making extra profits all this time unknown to the Government—the Government began to find it out last year—by overcrowding and conducting these places in a most insanitary manner he must have been making improper gain. The by-law he specially objected to has been eliminated and the only one he can now possibly make any objection against is the present by-law 3, which says that a keeper of an opium smoking divan shall not permit his premises to be overcrowded between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m. Coolies use these places to sleep in and if they went next door, which may be a common lodging house, no more than a certain number would be permitted. The common lodging house people have now seen the advantage to the public health of the by-laws against which they formerly kicked. There is nothing objectionable in these by-laws and the opium farmer will find that he will lose nothing at all by them. If he does it is simply because he has been making money by overcrowding to the detriment of health.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—With reference to the quibble raised by the learned Attorney-General that these by-laws are not a Bill, I submit they are the operative part of Ordinance 24 of 1887. Without the sanction of this Council these by-laws cannot be passed. The law is being altered in a material way and the proposed alteration may very seriously prejudice the opium farmer's interests. Section 15 of the Public Health Ordinance 24 of 1887 reads, "All by-laws made by the Board, when approved, shall have the same force and be equally valid as if they had been contained in this Ordinance." I submit, Sir, this is a most important part of the Bill; this is the operative part of the Bill and without the sanction of this Council the position of the opium farmer cannot be altered. The learned Attorney-General referred to counsel not being able to place before this Council any new matter, facts, or argument, but I think that the learned member must have forgotten that the unofficial members of this Council are unaware of the conditions of the grant from the Government to the opium farmer, and before we are asked to pass these by-laws it is desirable that we should know what the terms and conditions of the grant really are.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I should like, in reply, to say a word or two. The hon. member spoke of a quibble. I think it is my duty as Attorney-General to point out the distinction between by-laws and a Bill. I understand the hon. member said a by-law is a Bill.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I submit that the by-laws now before us are the operative part of Ordinance 24 of 1887, and these new by-laws cannot be brought into force until they have received the sanction of this Council.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I beg to second the resolution of my hon. friend.

The resolution proposed by the Hon. T. H. Whitehead was then put and lost. All the unofficial members voted for it and the officials against.

The by-laws were then passed.

ADDITIONAL BAKEHOUSE BY-LAWS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that additional bakehouse by-laws made by the Sanitary Board as amended be passed.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—These by-laws came into my hands only at six o'clock on Thursday night. During the two working days which have since elapsed it has been impossible for me to go into the merits of the by-laws, and whether the interests of those concerned are

adversely affected I cannot say. The by-laws appear to have been passed by the Sanitary Board last December and it is indeed passing strange that the Government could not have given us an opportunity of consulting those whom we represent. We might at least have had two or three weeks or a month—reasonable time—to consider these by-laws.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The by-laws were discussed at the public meetings of the Sanitary Board and if the hon. member had been anxious to ascertain the views of the owners of bakehouses he could easily have taken action before this.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I submit that we should have had the papers sent to us at least a month before they are brought forward for the consideration of the Council. I am not in a position to vote that these by-laws be approved; I shall vote against them on principle.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—Would it not be expedient to postpone the discussion on the by-laws for a fortnight?

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I may mention, Sir, with regard to the by-laws which are to follow these, that I have been requested by my unofficial colleagues to ask for the postponement of the passing of them for a fortnight, and perhaps the whole question might be settled at one time. As the hon. member has just pointed out, they were received by the unofficial members late on Thursday afternoon and they are of opinion that they have not had the opportunity of considering them carefully. To facilitate matters perhaps you may consent to postpone the whole of them now.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I think the hon. member will be more in order if he brings forward that resolution when the by-laws to which he refers are brought forward for approval.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—There are only four or five by-laws and they cover only about two inches of printed matter; it would not take two or three days to read that.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—It is not a question of reading. I submit we should have an opportunity of consulting those whom we represent and those whose interests will be affected.

A vote was then taken. Hon. Dr. Ho Kai and Hon. C. P. Chater and the official members voted in favour of the by-laws being passed; the remainder of the unofficial members voted against them.

INSANITARY DWELLINGS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to move that the by-laws made under section 93 of Ordinance 15 of 1894 be approved by this Council.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—On behalf of the unofficial members I would like to ask your Excellency if you could postpone the consideration of these by-laws to a future occasion, say a fortnight. The reasons for asking for a postponement are that they were only in the possession of the unofficial members on Thursday afternoon and there has been no time to consider them carefully. These by-laws are not, like the last ones, only a few lines in length, but they are contained in several sheets and they affect property perhaps very seriously, and, secondly, they are of far more importance than those we have just passed.

Hon. HO KAI—I beg to support the motion made by the hon. the senior unofficial member. These by-laws affect the interests of the Chinese very seriously, and I for one should like very much to have the by-laws translated and to consult the Chinese respecting them. I think it is only fair we should consider them, whether they are right or wrong from a sanitary point of view, before they are passed. As the senior unofficial member pointed out, they are of great length and so far as the unofficial members are concerned they have had no opportunity of consulting their constituents. For those reasons I second the resolution.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I rise to support what has been said. I think the request for time to consider these important by-laws is only fair and reasonable, and it would be unreasonable for the Government to pass these by-laws through the Council at this sitting, as the unofficial members have not had the necessary time to consider them or to consult with those whom they represent. Why we have not had an opportunity of having these

by-laws several weeks or at least a month ago I do not understand, but I think our request for time is a reasonable one and I hope that the Government will not refuse it. If the Government do refuse I submit, Sir, that the mode of procedure now proposed by the Colonial Secretary, and the proposal to pass these by-laws to-day must tend to bring the proceedings of this Council into the neighbourhood of a farce. To vote important by-laws such as these which have come into our hands only two clear days before the meeting of Council is what I am not prepared to do. They may be the right thing, but we cannot take it for granted; at all events, I cannot take it for granted, and I submit that the public and those whose interests are affected have a right to be heard. I also submit that it would be unreasonable of Government to now force them through the Council.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I think the position which has just been taken has arisen somewhat through a misunderstanding. There is very little new matter in the by-laws before the Council to-day and with your permission I will briefly point out the difference between the by-laws we are now asked to approve and those which were approved on the 4th April, 1895. By-law No. 2 is apparently new, but on reference to Section 4, sub-Section A of Ordinance 15, 1894, it will be seen that the ground surface referred to in this by-law must be concreted to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Board. The Sanitary Board, in revising these by-laws, thought it expedient to elaborate it so as to show clearly to those concerned what were the requirements in order that there should be no mistake about such work. By-law 3 is exactly the same as the existing by-law No. 2. By-law 4 is practically the same as by-law 3 with the addition as to concreting of floors, a practice which I may mention is generally adopted by persons constructing such buildings. By-law 5 is an extension of the existing by-law and refers to streets on which buildings abut. It has been found impossible to secure even light and ventilation in this colony if obstructions can be caused by these private lanes, which are in the majority of cases extremely narrow and which are in most instances seriously obstructed and form the only access to these buildings, unless the Board has power to prevent unnecessary obstructions to these lanes, although the backs of the buildings do not abut thereon. By-law 6 is practically the same as existing by-law No. 5, areas being substituted for width of back yard. By-law 7 is the same as by-law 6. By-law 8 is the same as No. 7. By-law 9 is the same as No. 8. By-law 10 is the same as No. 9, except that 8 a.m. has been substituted instead of 5 a.m. That is to say, that no officer of the Sanitary Board shall, between the hours of midnight and 8 o'clock the following morning, enter any domestic dwelling. In the old by-law the hours were between 12 and 5. This is a concession to the Chinese and the public generally in the colony which it is not considered will be detrimental to the work of the Board. By-law 11 is the same as by-law 10, except that 8 o'clock a.m. is substituted instead of 10 a.m. Hon. members are no doubt aware that an officer performing duties of inspection in this colony is about the streets before 10 o'clock in the morning and it is an extremely inconvenient arrangement that he should have to pay a return visit to a house for the purpose of inspection, and it was thought that the substitution of 8 a.m. instead of 10 a.m. would not, under the existing conditions in this colony, bear hardly on the occupants. The latter part of by-law 11 has been inserted; it is practically Section 53 of Ordinance 24 of 1887 and is according to the custom that has been in force in this colony for some time. Under Section 53 of Ordinance 24 of 1887, I may mention, no notice is required. Here it is proposed to give notice. By-law 12 is practically the same as existing by-law 11, only a little less stringent, as it permits of the windows being closed when the weather is inclement. By-law 13 is practically the same as by-law 12, with the addition of the word "householder." On reference to the definition of occupier and householder it will be seen that where only the occupier is responsible it will be very easy indeed for such occu-

per to evade the law, and it is extremely difficult, when a nuisance is found to exist, to find the person against whom action can be taken. The addition of the word "householder" gives power to take action against the person in charge of the house at the time and who is responsible for the property. The same remark applies to by-law 14. The first part of by-law 15 is the same as existing by-law 15. The second part is new. That has been inserted with a view to providing or securing that premises should not be occupied as a domestic dwelling unless there is proper ventilation and light. The third part of by-law 16 is the same as existing by-law 16, and the fourth part is also the same. The fifth part is new. The fifth part has reference to the area that it is necessary to provide at the back of any basement between the wall and the ground, and I venture to think that no hon. member of this Council would for one moment think that in providing an area for light and ventilation it was intended that it should be obstructed and afterwards blocked up. It is absurd to think that an area should be provided for light and ventilation and that at the same time we should give permission to block it up. That portion can hardly be considered as new. By-law 16 is the same as the existing by-law 15, except that it prevents the obstruction of streets. An addition has now been made to prevent the obstruction of streets, it having been found that persons evaded the spirit of the law because we were unable, owing to the letter of it, to compel people to keep the streets clear; and the length of 30 feet for a room is new. The Board considered that a room of greater length than 30 feet is too long. The next portion is the same as by-law 15 unless lighted and ventilated from the back. By-law 17 is the same as existing by-law 28 and the latter part is the same as by-law 29. By-law 18 is the same as existing by-law 19 except the last portion of it, which provides for the detention of persons in an infected house until they can be removed under proper supervision. That has been the practice, which has been approved by the members of this Council, but at present the Sanitary Board is advised that it had no power to make such an order. By-law 19 is practically the same as existing by-law 20. By-law 20 is the same as by-law 21 with a further explanation. By-law 21 is the same as existing by-law 23. By-law 22 is the same as existing by-law 24, and by-law 23 is the same as existing by-law 25. By-law 24 is the same as by-law 27, and by-law 25 is the same as by-law 26, except the last two paragraphs, which are new. The first of the two paragraphs provides that infected premises shall not be re-occupied except under a certificate of the Sanitary Board, and the latter part provides that the Board shall erect matsheds or hire buildings, &c. I think there can be no doubt about the desirability of such provisions as these. By-law 26 is practically the same as existing by-law 22. The latter part is new, but I would ask hon. members to compare this by-law with by-law 22 and I would ask them to consider the circumstances under which by-law 22 came before this Council in 1895, and I cannot help thinking that this Council will approve of the Sanitary Board, by its officers, entering premises during the existence of an epidemic in this colony in order to thoroughly cleanse and disinfect them. I think that hon. members will agree that unless illegal cocklofts, mezzanine floors, &c., can be removed and light and ventilation restored other measures would be no good at all. (Hear, hear.) The report of the Medical Officer of Health concerning the outbreak of plague in 1896 conclusively proves that if the cleansing and disinfection of premises is to be carried out successfully the Board must of necessity have this power. I refer particularly to the following paragraph, which with your Excellency's permission I will read—"The exceptionally large number of 'repeat' cases which occurred in No. 2 Health District affords a remarkable justification, from the sanitary point of view, of the action taken by the Sanitary Board in demolishing cubicles and cocklofts with a view to the admission of light and air to the dwellings. The eastern district of the city was declared affected by the epidemic on 2nd April, 1896, and during that month a general cleansing of the houses was carried out, but owing

to some misinterpretation of my instructions, no demolition of cocklofts or cubicles occurred. The disease continued unabated in the district, and I accordingly issued instructions during the first week of May that the whole district should be again cleansed, and that all dirty woodwork and obstructions to windows must be removed; as a result of this second and more thorough cleansing, disinfection, and aeration of the dwellings, no 'repeat' case occurred in any house infected later than 5th May, although the disease lingered on in the district until September." I know a great deal was heard about the exercise of this power during last year, but I think the agitation was limited to a very few. I do not for one moment wish to refer to the cases which were heard at the Supreme Court, but to what has been referred to on a previous occasion by the hon. member representing the Chamber of Commerce, who said the Sanitary Board was holding itself up to ridicule. He afterwards withdrew a resolution which he proposed, but I regret to say he did not withdraw his speech. The intention of this by-law is to give the Sanitary Board officers the necessary power, but not as some suppose, to place them outside the pale of the law. There is no doubt that at times cases occur in which zeal may outrun discretion, and of course these cases have to be considered and if any damage is done the Sanitary Board will do their utmost to make it good. I have now gone through the by-laws, but I should like to refer to papers which have also been before this Council. During the epidemic of 1894, on the 11th May, this Council approved of by-law 6, which reads—"If the premises so visited or any part thereof shall be found in a dirty or insanitary condition in the opinion of the officer making such visitation, he shall forthwith take steps to have the same thoroughly cleaned out and disinfected, &c." I lay special stress on the word "forthwith," because it is recognised now that any steps taken on the occurrence of plague must be prompt. If parties are going to insist on receiving 24 or 48 hours' notice before steps can be taken the Board had better no longer exist, so far as trying to prevent the spread of plague is concerned. On 6th May, 1895, I had the honour of addressing the Colonial Secretary a letter on the steps taken to deal with the outbreak of plague that occurred in that year. The letter set forth the steps taken by the Sanitary Board and also enclosed a report from Mr. Crow showing how the additional staff granted by the Government for the purpose had been disposed of and it included everything which we now aspire to do and which the Sanitary Board, until the opinion of the Attorney-General was obtained, was of opinion it had power to do. To that report the senior unofficial member now in Council wrote the following minute:—"On behalf of my unofficial colleagues, amongst whom these papers have been circulated, I wish to express our appreciation of the prompt and vigorous measures taken to combat a possible invasion of the plague. As the colony in general seems to be unaware of what precautions have been adopted, we would suggest that they be communicated to the local press, as also any further steps that may from time to time be taken, so that the community may be assured that everything possible is being done to avert danger of a recurrence of the disease." On the 21st October, 1895, a further report from Captain Hastings and Mr. Crow, who had charge of the inspection and disinfection of the dwellings in the colony, was laid on this table, and in that report the following sentence occurs—"The experience of this year would seem to demonstrate that the disease was nipped in the bud and an epidemic averted by the prompt removal and segregation of the inmates and the disinfection and cleansing of the infected premises. The drastic measure it was deemed necessary to adopt were fully justified by the nature of and the circumstances attending the outbreak." That was laid on the table in October, 1895, and up to this date no hon. member has expressed disapproval of the steps taken in that year. On the 6th April, 1896, when this colony was again threatened with an epidemic of plague, I addressed a letter to your Excellency on behalf of the Sanitary Board, pointing out the necessary steps that should be taken, and amongst others were the cleans-

ing and disinfecting of infected premises, and the general cleansing and limewashing of all tenement houses, and your Excellency granted the staff asked for by the Sanitary Board and from that time not a word of dissent was raised by any hon. member of this Council. I think, therefore, we are justified in assuming that, though in one or two instances mistakes may have been made—but in these cases persons have been recompensed where material was destroyed—the whole of the members of this Council have been fully aware for the last two years at least that the Sanitary Board have been combatting with the plague in a manner proposed to be now legalised by these by-laws, and, further, on several occasions they have expressed their approval of the work that has been done, and I do not think under these circumstances it can be said that the by-laws come before them in an entirely new form. The Sanitary Board has brought these by-laws forward now because it is evident that the plague exists in the immediate neighbourhood of this colony, and the Sanitary Board asks for the early passing of these by-laws so as to enable it to grapple with the disease immediately on its occurrence. And I must say that, personally, I consider any postponement of these by-laws will practically render useless any steps that the Board may take to deal with even two or three cases of plague that may occur in this colony any day. We have reliable information that the plague has broken out in Swatow, Formosa, the West River, and Macao, but I am glad to say that no cases have been reported in this colony so far. The Sanitary Board has made preparations, subject to the passing of these by-laws, for the immediate grappling with any cases that may occur. I may mention that from the literature which has been recently published in scientific papers concerning the plague in Bombay, the general opinion would thoroughly endorse what I wish to state on behalf of the Sanitary Board, namely, the absolute necessity for the Board being empowered to enforce the provisions of these by-laws, and therefore I hope that members will withdraw their opposition to the immediate passing of the by-laws.

HIS EXCELLENCY—You all know perfectly well, gentlemen, that I am not desirous of pushing anything through this Council by means of what is called "the official phalanx." The only object we have in view in regard to these by-laws is the improvement of the sanitary condition of the colony, and after the very full statement which we have heard from the Director of Public Works, who will be leaving the colony next week, I should have been very pleased for these by-laws to pass to-day. On the other hand, I think the unofficial members have a very reasonable objection to pass them, as they cannot be absolutely aware of their contents. I therefore do not object, although I do not like to take the responsibility, to postponing this matter for a week only. At the same time, with reference to what Dr. Ho Kai has said, that they would certainly affect the Chinese inhabitants, I beg to inform the Hon. Wei A Yuk and Hon. Ho Kai that the measures proposed and which are referred to in these by-laws must be carried out, and the compulsory visits especially must be put into force. I will promise that this shall only be done by officers of standing who will give satisfaction to the community. (Applause.) I must again say that we shall have to bring forward these by-laws and make any amendment if necessary on Monday next, and we must pass them then. I cannot take the responsibility, with the plague in the neighbourhood of this colony, of postponing all this necessary work for a further period. (Applause.)

HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Will you not give us a fortnight? If the plague should unfortunately come in our midst I am perfectly certain that every unofficial member will attend an emergency meeting to pass the requisite by-laws in order to grapple with the plague. These by-laws require time for consideration and I think that under those circumstances your Excellency might give us a fortnight.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I consider that prevention is better than cure, Mr. Whitehead, and I cannot give you longer than a week.

The consideration of the by-laws was then postponed for a week.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS.

The following Bills were, on the motion of the Attorney-General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, read the first time:—

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend The Vaccination Ordinance, 1890.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to enable the Government to provide suitable latrine accommodation for the public.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the law as to Flogging.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the regulation of Chinese Ordinance, 1888.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the punishment of stowaways arriving in this colony.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the protection of women and girls.

BILLS PASSED.

The following Bills were read the third time and passed:—

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Medical Registration Ordinance, 1884.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to declare and amend the law of partnership.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to probates and letters of administration in this colony.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council then adjourned until next Monday.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held. Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart presided and all the members were present.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

VOTES RECOMMENDED.

The following votes were recommended:—

A sum of \$959.50 for expenses incurred in connection with the quarantine of the steamer *Cheang Hok Kian*.

A sum of \$4,488 to meet the following expenses during the current year:—Personal Emoluments—Assistant Surgeon, Medical Department, \$2,400.00, Resident Surgeon, Tung Wa Hospital, 1,800.00, Messenger, 72.00. Other Charges—For conveyance, 216.00. Total, \$4,488.00.

The CHAIRMAN explained that this vote was the outcome of the recommendations made by the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor to enquire into the working of the Tung Wa Hospital.

A sum of \$1,200, being increase to the salaries of the undermentioned officers for the current year:—Mr. W. Chatham, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, \$600.00, Mr. H. P. Tooker, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, \$600.00. Total, \$1,200.00.

The CHAIRMAN explained, in reference to this vote, that it was considered the officers named were worthy of an increase of salary and the Secretary of State for the Colonies approved of the recommendation.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD thereupon uttered a somewhat doubtful "Hear, hear."

The CHAIRMAN—I am glad to hear the approval of the hon. member elected by the Chamber of Commerce.

A sum of \$28,612.32, being the unexpended balances on the following votes for 1896 for Extraordinary Public Works:—Slaughterhouse, pig and sheep depots, including pier, \$8,471.16; raising Praya wall, Sheklongtsui, opposite M. L. 126 and 177-183, \$5,000.00; improvement of street lighting, \$8,872.65; storm water drain, Wing Fuk Street, \$3,943.51; Salisbury Road, Kowloon, \$2,325.00. Total, \$28,612.32.

A sum of \$2,424.93, being the unexpended balance under the vote "Isolation Hospital 1896."

A sum of \$550.00, to cover the salary and allowances of the newly appointed student interpreter from 1st March to 31st December, 1897.

A sum of \$600, in aid of the vote "Maintenance of Juvenile Offenders in the Reformatory."

A sum of \$200, in aid of the vote "Isolation Hospital."

A sum of \$6,000, for repairs to roads outside the City of Victoria.

The CHAIRMAN said this was a sum he felt sure the Committee would gladly recommend as they would agree that the present condition of the roads was exceedingly satisfactory.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Hear, hear.

The CHAIRMAN—I am glad to hear that Mr. Whitehead approves.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I do not approve. Recently I have been over several roads and they are certainly far from being in a satisfactory state.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE thought the roads were in good condition.

The CHAIRMAN—The Captain Superintendent of Police and Mr. Whitehead must have been travelling over different roads.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked if it was not possible to have made a nearer estimate; the amount was very large and wide of the estimate.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—The roads have been considerably improved lately and a good many outstanding liabilities at the end of last year have been paid out of this year's vote.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—The answer is satisfactory, but I did not wish to be misrepresented by the Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN—I beg your pardon, there was no desire to misrepresent your views, which do not coincide with those of the Captain Superintendent of Police.

The last vote was a sum of \$3,438.76, to meet expenses in connection with the Kennedytown Hospital during the months of January, February, March, and April, 1897.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Committee then adjourned.

SIGNOR CATTANEO'S CONCERT.

A concert was given at the Lusitano Club on Monday evening by Signor Cattaneo and his pupils in aid of St. Joseph's Church organ fund. There was a large attendance and amongst those present were H.E. the Governor and Commodore Holland. Signor Cattaneo's concerts are always of a high class and very enjoyable and Monday's was no exception to the rule. The chorus consisted of between thirty and forty voices, the parts being well balanced; and several concerted pieces were rendered by an orchestra of mandolines, mandolas, guitars, and banjo, seventeen lady and gentleman amateurs taking part in these. To the general body of the audience the mandoline music appeared to give much satisfaction, the applause after each of the items being very hearty, but some there were who thought there was too much of the mandoline in the programme and that though one such item might be tolerated in an evening as a pleasing novelty the mandoline is not capable of the highest musical effects and becomes tedious when it is heard too often. We can only say *chacun à son gout*, and certainly the great majority of the audience enjoyed the items in question.

The first number on the programme was from "Maritana," the opening chorus, the soprano solo and chorus "It was a Knight," the mezzo-soprano solo and chorus "Tis the harp in the air," and the angelus "Coro Religioso." The opening chorus was very finely rendered and was the best thing of the evening. In the solo "It was a Knight" Mrs. Stringer, who has a good soprano voice, unfortunately appeared to suffer somewhat from nervousness. Mrs. Mancell sang "Tis the harp in the air" with considerable sweetness, but her voice, we should say, is capable of some further cultivation. In the Angelus the chorus again worked well together and gave evidence of careful rehearsal and training. The second item was the Barcarolle "Toujours dans ma gondole" by the orchestra of mandolines, etc. The performers were all evidently at home with their instruments and the piece was rendered with agreeable spirit and precision. The audience was evidently very favourably impressed and was warm in its applause. Mr. A. C. Van Neirp next appeared, singing "Yes, let me like a soldier fall," in which his fine tenor voice was heard to advantage, but we would suggest to him that it is a mistake to change the vowels

in order to get a better singing word, as, for instance, "fall" into "fahl," a mispronunciation which is apt to grate on the hearers. Miss Alves followed with an exquisitely rendered mandoline solo, for which she received enthusiastic applause and had to return to bow her acknowledgments, encores not being allowed. Miss E. Carvalho sang the Ballata from the opera "Guarany," and, notwithstanding that she was suffering from indisposition, gave a highly finished rendering of the somewhat florid and difficult music. It is to be regretted that Miss Carvalho is so seldom heard in public. She has a soprano voice of wide compass, flexible, and perfectly trained, and never fails to delight her hearers. Owing to the rule of no encores the audience on Monday was denied the pleasure of a repetition. The first part of the programme concluded with another piece by the orchestra of mandolines, a Serenade, in which the favourable impression produced by the first piece was confirmed. The second part opened with Signor Cattaneo's "Ave Maria" for bass and chorus, the solo being taken by Mr. J. Kraal, for whose full rich voice it was well adapted. The second item was a trio for first and second mandolines and guitar, by Miss Lysaught, Miss Alves, and Miss L. Lysaught, which was well rendered and warmly applauded. Mrs. F. Dodwell, who possesses a pleasing contralto voice, then sang "Life's Lullaby," a song by Gerald Lane, and quite charmed the audience, who, notwithstanding that Mrs. Dodwell returned to bow her acknowledgments, continued the applause until the next performer appeared on the stage. This was Signor G. Badola, who gave a brilliant solo on the mandola. Mr. A. C. Van Neirp and Mr. C. Grace then gave Balfe's well known and favourite duet "Excelsior," in which their voices blended well and full expression was given to the varying phases of the composition. A most enjoyable concert was brought to a close by another barcarolle by the orchestra.

The piano accompanists were Mr. F. Danenberg and Signor Cattaneo.

FURTHER RELAXATION OF THE NIGHT PASS LAW.

A Bill read a first time at the meeting of the Legislative Council on Monday repeals section 30 of the Regulation of Chinese Ordinance, 1888, and in lieu thereof substitutes the following section:—

"It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, from time to time, by order to be published in the *Gazette*, to direct that no Chinese of either sex (without reasonable excuse, the proof whereof shall lie upon the person alleging it) shall be at large in the City of Victoria between such hours of the night as may, from time to time, be fixed by such Order, without a valid pass under the principal Ordinance. For the purposes of this section 'Night' means from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m."

The statement of objects and reasons is as follows:—

Although, with a view to emergencies, it is requisite that the Governor in Council should retain the power at present possessed of requiring Chinese who are out at night to be provided with passes under the Regulation of Chinese Ordinance, 1888, it is thought desirable so to modify section 30 of that Ordinance as to admit of the relaxation of such requirement when it seems to His Excellency that night passes may be dispensed with without prejudice to the safety and well-being of the community.

At present, section 30 of Ordinance 13 of 1888 requires such passes between 9 p.m. and sunrise, unless other hours are fixed by Order in Council.

The effect of repealing section 30 and substituting the new section will be that night passes will only be compulsory when they are required by Order of the Governor in Council, published in the *Gazette*, and then, only between such hours of the night as may be fixed by such Order. In the absence of such Order, they will not be required at all.

The P. & O. steamer *Sunda*, which arrived from home on the 29th April, had her passenger list augmented en route, a birth having occurred on board on the 8th April.

SUPREME COURT.

27th April.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.—SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND HON. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.)

SUNDER SINGH, APPELLANT, V. CHUK SAI HOP AND ANOTHER, RESPONDENTS.

This was a motion for leave to appeal. Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) appeared for the appellant and Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) represented the respondents.

Mr. Francis said this was an application for leave to appeal and it was made under the provisions of Ordinance 14 of 1873, sections 41 and 43. The action on which the appeal was based was brought by the appellant, Sunder Singh, against the respondents. The subject matter of the suit was a promissory note for \$700, dated 12th August, 1895, signed by the defendant, Chuk San Hop, and drawn in favour of Sunder Singh. On the issue of the writ an application was made by the plaintiff for an interim judgment on the ground that the defendant, a cattle dealer, had moved a considerable number of cattle which were in his possession out of the jurisdiction of the Court and that he only brought back into Hongkong a very much smaller number. A warrant was issued on the application of the plaintiff. When the action came on evidence was heard, there being three witnesses for the plaintiff—Sunder Singh himself, Mana Singh, and Leung Wing Kwai. The only evidence for the defence was that of the defendant and a Chinese witness named Lam Yee. A written judgment against the plaintiff was delivered by the Acting Puisne Judge and Counsel read this in full and criticised it. He submitted that the Puisne Judge had drawn too strong an inference in finding that the defendant intended to sign a promissory note for \$100 and not for \$700. There was no justification for saying that the defendant's evidence was absolutely certain and convincing. The burden of proof in the Court below was on the defendant, especially as the case involved a charge of deliberate fraud. Fraud had to be clearly and certainly proved; there must be no doubt. There was a certain amount of doubt admittedly thrown upon the plaintiff's case by the evidence connected with the blue paper on which the promissory note was made, but that doubt did not amount to a certainty and the appellant was therefore entitled to have a re-hearing in justice to him and because the Judge unwittingly fell into a mistake by drawing too strong an inference.

Mr. Slade asked for the motion to be dismissed on the ground that if there were a rehearing there could not possibly be any other decision than a verdict for the respondents. It was a very ordinary case of one side swearing one thing and the other side swearing another. The Judge had had an opportunity of seeing the attitude and demeanour of the witnesses and it was very unlikely that the Court of Appeal would not support the decision of the Court below.

Mr. Francis replied and concluded as follows—I would now like, my Lord, as this will probably be the last occasion on which there will be an opportunity, to express, on behalf of myself and the members of the Bar and of the members of the other branch of the profession, our very highest respect and appreciation for the learned Judge who will soon be leaving the Bench, our admiration for the manner in which he has performed his duties, and our sincere regret that he is leaving the active practice of the legal profession and going into another branch of the Civil Service.

The Chief Justice—Mr. Francis, I am glad you have taken an opportunity to express the sense of the Bar of the merits as a Judge of my learned friend, and I take leave to concur entirely with you and to express my personal regret he is leaving the Bench. I have known him now for nearly twelve months and although we do not often sit in Court together, still we

frequently see something of one another and we see something of one another's work, and without wishing to say too much in his favour I must express my admiration for his high judicial qualities and my regret that he is leaving the legal service.

Mr. Francis—Your Lordship has expressed our sentiments much better than I could have done.

The Acting Puisne Judge—As you may imagine, the few words you have spoken have taken me completely by surprise this afternoon, and I am very much indebted to you for the opinion you have expressed. I must say I value it very much indeed and it will encourage me, if I am placed in such an important position again, to deserve your further approbation. As I say, I have been very much taken by surprise and I hope you will be content with this very brief acknowledgement which I make from the bottom of my heart.

His Lordship, in giving judgment, first of all said it might be thought that he would not reverse his learned brother's decision because this was the last time they would sit together, but his Lordship was quite sure that the gentlemen who appeared for the litigants would acquit him of any weakness on that point and would believe that the judgment was formed entirely independent of any personal considerations. His Lordship then went into the facts of the case and came to the conclusion that if the Court granted a rehearing now there was no reasonable ground for believing that the decision would be otherwise than that given by the Puisne Judge. The motion would therefore be dismissed.

The Acting Puisne Judge concurred.

Mr. Slade asked for costs and the application was granted.

28th April.

RE SUNDER SINGH AND MANA SINGH.

This was an appeal, which was heard on Tuesday, against an order made by the Acting Puisne Judge on the 12th April committing the appellants to prison with hard labour for three months for contempt of Court, the contempt consisting of committing wilful and corrupt perjury when under examination in a case in which they were plaintiffs.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master), represented the appellants.

Their Lordships dismissed the appeal.

The Chief Justice, in giving judgment, said that two points had been taken by the appellants as showing that the order was bad and should be reversed. The first point was that there was not sufficient evidence to justify the order that had been made; in other words that the quantum of proof requisite to support a case of perjury had not been satisfied. On this point His Lordship quoted various rulings and said it was clear that the order was founded upon such evidence as would justify a conviction for perjury and that it complied with the requirements of the law. The first point therefore failed.

Mr. Francis asked to be allowed to interpose to call attention to the fact that with reference to the alleged perjury there were three oaths at the most against three others, and he submitted there was no superiority of evidence on one side or the other as required by the rule of law; there was no preponderance of evidence in support of the charge of perjury.

The Chief Justice said he had not lost sight of the number of witnesses on each side; he was merely dealing with the technical rule of evidence relating to the amount of proof which was required on a prosecution for perjury, that was to say, that the proof of a single witness was not, in most cases, sufficient, but there must be either the evidence of two witnesses or the evidence of one witness corroborated by some material fact. The number of witnesses was not to the point. Suppose perjury was clearly proved by two witnesses, it did not matter whether a dozen witnesses were called by the defendant to contradict the evidence, as the jury would be justified in rejecting the evidence of the dozen witnesses and accepting the evidence of the two. The rule of law was *testimonia ponderanda sunt, non numeranda*, and therefore in this case they were not concerned

with the fact that there were more witnesses for the plaintiff than for the defendant. The second point put forward on behalf of the appellants was that no charge was made for them to answer and no opportunity was given to them of rebutting the charge. Where perjury was committed in open court the Judge had power by law to commit the offender to prison for a term not exceeding three months or to fine him a sum not exceeding \$100. Under what circumstances could that order be made? It would seem clear that the power applied only after the conclusion of the case, and then the power became absolute. The Court had the materials before it to form an opinion and he felt clear that in point of law nothing further was required. It was clear that this power was given for the summary punishment of perjury—for the sharp and swift dealing with a person who was guilty of perjury in open Court in such a way as to amount to a contempt of Court. How could that power be satisfied if it was necessary to formulate a charge against the person to be dealt with and to allow him to give formal evidence and have the case heard *de novo*? His Lordship was of opinion that the power would be absolutely futile in such circumstances, but he felt that he concurred with the learned counsel for the appellants to this extent, that as a matter of discretion it would be desirable in cases of this kind for the Court to have the person brought forward and to state to him that the Court had come to the conclusion that he had committed wilful and corrupt perjury and to ask him if he desired to say anything in arrest of sentence, so to speak, by way of showing that he should not be committed. His Lordship suggested that in future this procedure should be followed, but he did not think the discretion the Court had should be carried so far as to allow the person to call evidence, because the presumption of the enactment was that the Court had arrived at a clear view. He was of opinion that the learned Judge was right in committing the appellants and the appeal would therefore be dismissed.

The Acting Puisne Judge said that in cases of this kind if the person who had committed perjury were asked to give evidence or if the case were re-tried it would make a farce of the whole proceedings. He would state his reasons for acting as he had acted. He felt that as he was dealing with Asiatics it was more within the policy of this enactment that he should at once commit Asiatics to prison. He believed strongly in inflicting summary punishment on Asiatics, and he believed that form of punishment affected them and was more valuable than other forms of punishment. The reason why he imposed the heaviest punishment he could was that he was of opinion that the whole of the case was got up for the purpose of extorting money from the defendant, and holding that opinion he had on the evidence before him deemed it his duty at the time to inflict the heaviest punishment he could. With regard to the Chief Justice's remarks about calling upon the contemner to make any remarks that he might wish to make, the Acting Puisne Judge said he thoroughly agreed with them and if he regretted anything in this case it was that he did not pursue that course; but notwithstanding that he thought he was perfectly within his rights, and a Judge in the future would be perfectly within his rights, in summarily committing a man to prison without calling upon him to show cause. He concurred in the decision of the Chief Justice that the appeal should be dismissed.

Mr. Francis said he was instructed to ask for a stay of execution so that the accused might consider their position and consider whether they should or should not appeal to Her Majesty in Council against the decision of the Court. He asked for stay of execution for a month.

The Chief Justice said that was rather a long time.

Mr. Francis said it was, but he was going away from the colony for a few days.

Their Lordships granted stay of execution for a month and ordered the defendants to find a surety of \$750 each.

30th April.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

DAKIN V. MERCIER.

R. L. Dakin, master mariner, sued A. Mercier for \$150 for breach of contract. Mr. Thompson (of Messrs. Deacon and Hastings' office) represented the plaintiff.

The defendant had a water boat built by Messrs. A. G. Gordon and Co., Hongkong, and he arranged with plaintiff to take the boat to Saigon for \$150. Last Tuesday morning plaintiff went on board, but found that she was not seaworthy as there was a quantity of water in the tanks and he told the defendant about this fault. The water was afterwards pumped out and defendant then asked plaintiff to take charge of her, but he said he would not take the boat to Saigon unless he received \$200. The defendant then replied that he would get someone else. The plaintiff said it was not until night time that the boat was ready and he refused to make a start then, but the defendant said it was in the afternoon and that the plaintiff had broken his contract by refusing to go.

Judgment was entered for the defendant.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the members of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce was held in their Room, City Hall, on Wednesday afternoon, the 28th April. Mr. Herbert Smith (Vice-Chairman) presided, and there were also present:—Messrs. N. J. Ede, R. M. Gray, T. Jackson, St. C. Michaelsen, N. A. Siebs, Hon. T. H. Whitehead (members of the Committee), R. C. Wilcox (Secretary), Hon. E. R. Bellios, Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. A. P. MacEwen, E. Osborne, G. T. Veitch, G. H. Wheeler, Liao Tze San, B. L. Batliwara, R. M. Moses, P. Jordan, F. D. Setna, E. Mitchell, Ho Tung, Ho Fuk, C. S. Sharp, H. A. Ritchie, J. McKie, G. H. Potts, D. Gillies, G. Stewart, A. Coxon, F. Maitland, G. D. Böning, F. D. Setna, S. F. David, G. Slade, M. S. Northcote, T. F. Hough, H. S. Cooke, G. de Champeaux, J. Thurburn, A. J. Raymond, E. H. Joseph, J. Y. V. Vernon, W. R. Loxley, G. H. Dann.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The minutes of the last annual meeting and of the special meeting held on the 19th December last were confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the report has been in your hands some days, and with your permission I propose that it be taken as read. The various questions which have during the past year engaged the attention of the Chamber are pretty fully dealt with therein and I need only allude to those of special interest, or to those that are still exciting discussion. The announcement by Renter in May last that Li Hung-chang would, while on his mission to different European Courts, endeavour to get their sanction to an increase in the Chinese tariff on imports, at once excited the attention of the Committee. We took measures to secure something like concerted action by the representative commercial bodies, and, as the event proved, the step was timely, as it led to expressions of opinion on the subject, in advance of the Chinese envoy's visit to England, where in due course it is reported that he broached the matter to Lord Salisbury. The Premier, in reply, in effect said that he would wish to consult the Chambers of Commerce in China before taking any decisive action, and we can only hope that, in any case, negotiations will be deferred until time has been given for properly testing the value of Chinese official pledges in relation to the Transit Pass Trade in the two Kwang provinces. Proclamations have recently been issued there by the Likin offices which, if rigidly enforced, may render such a trade possible, where for more than thirty years it has, in defiance of the stipulations of the Tientsin Treaty, been impracticable, owing to the obstructive tactics of the provincial officials. I may add that, as a matter of fact, we have since been assured,

on the highest authority, that the Chinese Government have never once broached the question to any of the Foreign Ministers at Peking, and that no instructions have come out to the latter from their Governments in connection therewith. Li Hung-chang, no doubt hoping to obtain kudos at Peking, if successful in the attempt to secure a revision of the tariff, played this off his own bat, with, however, very indifferent success. It may be worth while remembering, too, that the Japanese Treaty signed at Shimonoseki in 1895 has eight years yet to run, and that instrument virtually assures the present tariff for that term for all countries by virtue of the most-favoured-nation clause. As you are well aware, the trade of this port again suffered considerably last year owing to quarantine restrictions. The Chamber lost no opportunity of protesting against the unnecessary prolongation of these precautions, but, in some directions, with very qualified success. More particularly is this the case in the Philippines, where on the 9th ult. quarantine was re-imposed against vessels from Hongkong and ports of China, absolutely without reason. Protests from this Chamber through the Spanish Consul seem to have been uniformly disregarded at Manila, and I fear it is hopeless to look for reasonable treatment in this respect in the neighbouring Spanish colony. Nevertheless we must not relax our efforts to obtain more considerate treatment. The inadequate accommodation at the Post Office and the, as we then believed, consequent late delivery of the mails induced the Chamber to make representations to the Government on the subject last summer. Since then, increased accommodation has been obtained by the annexation to the Post Office of a portion of the ground floor of the adjoining Court-house, but I regret to say that I cannot record any improvement in the administration of this Department. (Applause.) Delays in the delivery of mails are indeed more frequent than ever, to the great inconvenience of the entire commercial community. Concerning the action of the Telegraph Companies in raising their rates to Europe, America, and Shanghai immediately following the ratification of the Telegraph Convention on the 31st July last, there is little further to be said. This Chamber made a prompt and energetic protest against that action and although, thanks to the influence of the Foreign Office, there has been a concession in rates on certain of the Eastern Extension Co.'s lines, and a reduction in rates from home to China, we may be sure that the monopoly created by the Convention cannot fail to be prejudicial to the chances of our obtaining cheaper means of communication—a matter of great importance in these days of keen competition and narrow margins of profit. The agitation against the continued imposition of the special light tax levied to secure payment of the cost of the Gap Rock Light-house will be fresh in all memories. It was commenced by this Chamber and strongly supported by the shipping companies and firms, who have specially petitioned against the proposal to convert the voluntary temporary impost into a permanent tax, to be merged in the general revenue. The appeal was sent home to the Secretary of State and a satisfactory reply from Downing Street has just been made public. It recognises the importance of preserving the freedom of this port, which was our main contention, and we and the shipping interests are to be congratulated upon this success, carried, not only without assistance from, but notwithstanding the advice of, the local authorities. That long expected and much-agitated-for concession, the opening of the West River to foreign trade and steam navigation has, at last, been secured. That is to say, a convention has been signed under which two treaty ports and four calling stations on that river are to be opened on the 4th June next. We are greatly indebted to Sir Claude MacDonald, Her Britannic Majesty's energetic Minister at Peking, for his exertions in pressing for and eventually obtaining this concession. It is not perhaps all we had hoped for—we should have liked to have seen the river opened up to Nanning-fu—but no doubt that will come in time, and it is a great step to have obtained an entrance to the inland waterways

of the two Kwang. His Excellency the British Minister, who kindly favoured your committee with an interview when passing through the colony the other day, gave us much interesting information and very satisfactory assurances of the prospects for trade and the favourable disposition of the provincial officials at Canton. The wisdom of Sir Claude's appointment to Peking has long since been apparent to all Britons in China; at Peking he is undoubtedly the right man in the right place, and his efforts have already conferred benefits upon traders of all nations. (Applause.) Before quitting this subject, I think some recognition of the great and unwearied efforts of Mr. E. H. Fraser, Acting British Consul at Canton—(Applause and hear, hear)—to obtain satisfaction for claims put forward by his countrymen, and to secure for them and for us all the privilege of trading under transit pass, is due from this Chamber. (Applause.) We have sometimes suffered in the past from the apathy of certain of our Consular representatives, but Mr. Fraser has shown himself a true disciple of the late Sir Harry Parkes, having spared no pains to protect and promote our commercial interests. Let us hope that, with a vigorous and watchful Minister at Peking, a new spirit will permeate the service throughout, and that the Consuls generally will display the energy and zeal for our interests shown to such purpose by Mr. Fraser. (Applause.) The case in which the master of the steamer *Chingtu* was proceeded against in the Police Court on a charge of detaining some Japanese stowaways after arrival of the vessel in port and fined \$600, having attracted the attention of the Committee to the hardships entailed on ship-owners and masters by the working of the Vagrancy Ordinance, representations have been made to the Government on the subject, asking that its provisions may be amended. Under the Ordinance as it stands, the liabilities of both owners and captains are most onerous. I trust the Government contemplate a revision of the Ordinance, but so far no answer has been received on the subject. Now that the Attorney-General has returned to the colony, let us hope he will give the matter his early attention. The policy of making the Crown Colonies contribute as largely as possible to the Imperial expenditure evidently obtains strongly at home at the present time. After twice augmenting our military contribution, they now seek to obtain from us an increased contribution to the Postal subsidy. At present, as no doubt you are aware, this colony pays £6,000, which sum, after much correspondence between the Treasury and Colonial Office in 1883, was suggested by Lord Kimberley as a compromise. The present demand, calculated on a mileage basis, would fix the contribution at something between £11,000 and £12,000 per annum, and the local Government have requested the opinion of this Chamber on the question. Needless to say, the Committee regard the proposal as inequitable as regards the basis, and excessive as regards the amount, but, in the absence of certain returns which are necessary to the proper statement of the case, they have been compelled to delay giving an official reply to the communication. Coming to more personal matters, we have to record the unanimous re-nomination of Mr. Whitehead as the Chamber's representative on the Legislative Council for another term. I am sure that we are all satisfied that the Chamber's interests could not be confided to more zealous or more capable hands. (Applause.) I congratulate the member for the Chamber upon the position he alone of the unofficials took up in regard to the Government's action concerning the Light Dues question. The subject has been very fully discussed, even unto bitterness, so I will not further refer to it here. A few changes have occurred in the Committee during the year, the principal being the election of Mr. A. McConachie to the chair, on the resignation of Mr. Bell-Irving at the first meeting of the present Committee. Mr. McConachie proved a most painstaking and energetic Chairman, and I know that he regretted that his arrangements would not allow him to remain to preside at this meeting. It is certainly an honour I never expected, for I had no idea until very

lately that the Chairman would not be present for this important occasion. Mr. Gray, who is one of the oldest members of the Committee, consented on his return to rejoin it, thus filling the gap caused by the resignation of Mr. Dodwell. You will be called upon to-day to elect a new Committee. The list of new members is a gratifying one, not only because they serve to strengthen and popularise the Chamber, but also because the subscriptions now place us in a greatly improved financial position. You will see by the accounts that the revenue for the past year exceeded the expenditure, instead of as in some former years showing a balance on the debit side, a much more satisfactory state of affairs, I am sure you will allow. A good deal of credit is due to our Secretary and to two members of Committee (Messrs. Whitehead and Michaelson) for their special efforts to bring about this result. I will now, gentlemen, unless some member present wishes first to offer some remarks, move that the report and the Secretary's statement of accounts as presented be adopted. (Applause.)

Mr. JACKSON—Mr. Chairman and gentleman, it gives me very great pleasure indeed to bear testimony now, as I have done on previous occasions, to the very great energy shown by this Chamber during the last twelve months. This Chamber has never shown itself more energetic or more useful than during the last year, and I agree with the Chairman in congratulating Mr. McConachie on the part he has taken. If this Chamber continues to work on the lines it has adopted it will be a very great power in this place. Its boundaries, so to speak, have been enlarged, and it is truly representative of all nationalities in Hongkong. If we are only able to persevere with the energy, with the moderation, and with the ability that have been displayed in the last year our efforts will be entirely in the right direction and will do a very great deal of good. I very heartily congratulate the Chamber on the report which has just been presented. (Applause.)

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD said—I heartily appreciate your reference to my re-election to the Legislative Council as the Chamber's representative and my endeavours on behalf of trade and commerce. While it is my privilege to occupy a seat in the Council you may rest assured that to the utmost of my ability and without fear or favour I will strive to protect and promote the interests which you have entrusted to my care. At the Chamber's annual meeting in May last year, when the special Gap Rook light dues were being continued, though the purpose for which they were originally levied had been satisfied, it occurred to me in the course of the remarks I then made to direct the attention of the Chamber to a despatch of a previous Governor in connection with the freedom of the port. Sir John Bowring said:—"Believing that the satisfactory development of our prosperity is mainly due to the emancipation of all shipping and trade from fiscal vexations and exactions, I trust no Custom House machinery will ever be introduced, either for the collection of tariff or harbour dues, or for any purpose which may check the free ingress and egress of all shipping to and from the port, nor the free transfer of commodities from hand to hand," and these words are now as applicable as when they were written. You are aware your Committee communicated with the Government in July following and in acknowledging the letter sixteen days later Government replied that the matter was receiving attention. Nothing further would appear to have been done until the 12th of the following November, and then instead of bringing the question of taxing shipping for the purposes of general revenue before the Council openly, the Government endeavoured to get the matter discussed and settled by the unofficial members privately. I ventured to protest against this "hole and corner" mode of procedure, as in my opinion it is irregular and unconstitutional to refer public questions to the people's representatives to be discussed with closed doors and settled at private meetings. In certain quarters my protest was regarded as over vigorous, and in the Legislative Council I listened to His Excellency the Governor more in sorrow than in anger when he referred to my letter as having been written in my usual uncompromising style. Circum-

stances necessitated prompt action, and not only the members of this Chamber but the whole colony is to be warmly congratulated in that the Chamber has succeeded in frustrating the ill-advised and unwise attempt of the Colonial Government to permanently tax for the purposes of general revenue the shipping frequenting these waters. It is very gratifying that the maintenance intact of the freedom of the port, the mainspring of our progress and prosperity, should have been secured, and it is very important that the Secretary of State's words, viz., "That moderate dues may properly be levied in Hongkong, provided the proceeds do not in ordinary times exceed the total expenditure on the Harbour department, including lighthouses, water police, &c." should not be lost sight of. At our last annual meeting, speaking in regard to the plague then at our doors and of the sanitary condition of the city, I thought all would agree that the sanitary reform necessary to render the port clean and healthy should be effected forthwith at whatever cost of money; that the cost whatever it might be should not stand in the way. I further quoted from a minute of Mr. Ede's which reads:—"Unless some well considered scheme be adopted to abate overcrowding, to resume, lay out, rebuild on new principles, at least the worst section of the town, we shall never make any real permanent progress towards immunity from filth and disease." It is now reasonable to ask what has been done and whether the present position of matters is satisfactory. The emasculated Sanitary Board still with us has rendered and is rendering excellent service, but the law now in existence does not give it the power to compel landlords to do what is essential and necessary. Though the Board applied in August last to have the Public Health Ordinance further amended, Government so far have delayed giving the powers required. A commission of enquiry was appointed and a preliminary report will shortly be sent to the Government. From a personal inspection the members of the Commission have discovered a large number of insanitary dwellings, quite unfit for human habitation. It is very essential that the new Committee to be elected to-day should see that Government do not longer delay in effecting sanitary reforms which are indispensable. The lesson of the painful experience of 1894 appears to have been only imperfectly learned. I would further direct the attention of the new Committee to the question of collecting the revenue or tax on opium through a Farmer. The system is not only antiquated, but one which seriously affects the freedom of the port. In Council in December last I asked the question:—"In view of the present Opium Farm expiring in the spring of 1898, will the Government appoint a commission with full powers to investigate and report on the opium revenue generally, and upon the advisability or otherwise of substituting for the present Opium Farm bonded warehouses and a fixed duty on all opium not *bona fide* exported in a raw state?" and in reply the Colonial Secretary said—"I have the honour to state that the suggestion contained in the question will receive the consideration of the Government." So far, we have heard nothing further and evidently the question, like others, is being allowed to drift. (Applause.)

Mr. C. S. SHARP—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I have very much pleasure in seconding the proposal you have just made for the adoption of the report and accounts. We have all listened with a very great deal of pleasure to the very interesting remarks you have made. They were so complete that it is not necessary for me to say anything but a word of congratulation to the Committee for the report they have presented of the very important and useful work done during 1896. I concur generally in the remarks you have made and I think it must have been a matter of pleasure to members to see the Committee adopt the step of occasionally publishing an abstract of the proceedings that had passed at their meetings instead of, as formerly, allowing everything to remain until the end of the year, when most of the subjects were forgotten or had become stale. I think the thanks of the members are due to the Committee for that improvement. I have very much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried.

The CHAIRMAN then moved the confirmation of the members elected since the last annual meeting.

Mr. JACKSON seconded.

Carried.

The following gentlemen were appointed on the Committee for the ensuing year:—Messrs. R. M. Gray (Chairman), H. Smith (Vice-Chairman), J. J. Bell-Irving, N. J. Ede, T. Jackson, St. C. Michaelson, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and G. B. Dodwell.

The proceedings then terminated.

The following is the Committee's report submitted to the meeting:—

During the past year fewer subjects have engaged the attention of the Chamber, but your Committee are glad to note the final settlement of several questions and the satisfactory advancement of others.

DUTIES LEVIABLE IN JAPAN ON FORMOSAN PRODUCE TRANSHIPPED AT HONGKONG.

Early last year the Colonial Government requested an opinion from this Chamber on the subject of the duties leviable in Japan on British owned goods from Formosa which may be transhipped at Hongkong. A case was cited showing that, on satisfactory proof of the origin and destination of the cargo being given, the Customs charges were refunded by the Japanese Government, though it was considered doubtful whether such treatment could be generally claimed as a right. The Government desired to know whether the effect of this privilege, if claimed and conceded, would be beneficial or otherwise to the trade of the colony. A reply was sent affirming the desirability of obtaining a definitive recognition of the privilege, but nothing further has since transpired in reference to the subject.

THE WUCHOW-FU OBSTRUCTION CASE.

The case in which the officials at Wuchow-fu intervened to prevent the free disposal of goods taken under transit pass up to Wuchow by Mr. John Andrew was satisfactorily settled early in the year, and a sum of money in satisfaction of Mr. Andrew's claim for loss incurred subsequently paid over to the British Consul at Canton.

DUTIES LEVIED ON FOREIGN GOODS IN SOUTH CHINA.

Consequent on the case above alluded to and correspondence on the subject of the exactions levied on foreign goods in the interior of the Two Kwang, strong representations were made to the Central Government, the effect of which has been the issue recently of proclamations by the Likin Offices in Kwangtung and Kwangsi calling attention to the Treaty provisions and setting forth that all foreign produce imported under half duty certificate to no matter what points in the interior shall, on production and examination of its covering pass in transit, be exempt from all additional charges. It is hoped that the provisions of these proclamations will be strictly enforced.

PROPOSED INCREASE OF IMPORT DUTIES ON FOREIGN GOODS IN CHINA.

The publication by Reuter's Agency, on the 4th May last, of a telegram to the effect that His Excellency Li Hung-chang, then on a Mission to Russia to represent China at the Czar's Coronation, was about to visit the various Courts of Europe partly with a view to obtaining the sanction of the Treaty Powers to an increase in the *ad valorem* duties levied in China on foreign goods, induced your Committee to address representations on the subject to the British Minister at Peking expressing the hope that before any definite steps are taken in that direction, an opportunity would be afforded to Chambers of Commerce interested to express their views upon any changes that may be contemplated. Letters were also addressed to the various Chambers of Commerce in China, the China Association, and to London and other Chambers in the United Kingdom, inviting co-operation and interchange of opinion on the subject. Sir Claude MacDonald replied to the effect that he had received no confirmation of the statement contained in Reuter's message, but the visit of Li Hung-chang to England confirmed the report, the proposal having been discussed by him with Lord Salisbury, who intimated that before the matter could be considered he should wish to

refer it to the Chambers of Commerce in China. That the question will shortly come up again for consideration is generally recognised, and this Chamber is in agreement with the London Chamber that the trade could only bear an addition of 2½ per cent. Customs and 2½ per cent. transit duty, making 10 per cent. in all, on the clear understanding, properly guaranteed, that it will absolutely cover every exaction, and in the case of imports free them from one end of the empire to the other.

QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS.

Clean bills of health were issued here on the 7th August, the bubonic plague having died out, and quarantine restrictions were quickly abolished in some ports, but it was not until October that free pratique was granted at Manila on vessels arriving from Hongkong and China ports. The outbreak of small-pox in Japan has led to vessels from the ports of Tokyo, Yokohama, and Nagasaki being declared infected at Singapore, Manila, and elsewhere. The question of the sanitary supervision of the port is fully deserving of the most careful consideration.

DELAYS IN POSTAL DELIVERIES AND INADEQUATE POSTAL ACCOMMODATION.

Acting on a suggestion made by Messrs. Melchers & Co., the Committee in June last addressed the Government on the great inconvenience suffered by the mercantile community through the frequent delays in the delivery of the mails, and, having regard to the impossibility of effectively carrying on the service in the present inadequate building, urged the Government to proceed with the construction of a new Post Office. A reply was received stating that the question of the provision of a new Post Office, together with other Government buildings, was under the consideration of the Secretary of State, but meantime the Government were considering the feasibility of arranging for temporary additional accommodation for the Postal Department. This has since been effected by the conversion of a portion of the ground floor of the Supreme Court House into offices for the Registration and Parcels Departments, much to the convenience of the public.

THE DEATH OF SIR JOHN PENDER.

The Government, with the approval of your Committee, on the death of the late Sir John Pender, telegraphed to the Eastern Extension Telegraph Co.:—"Government, Chamber of Commerce, and community of Hongkong express profound regret at decease of Sir John Pender."

BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, 1897.

The London Chamber of Commerce having accepted the invitation to assist in the organization of a British section in the above Exhibition, wrote in July last asking this Chamber to co-operate; but your Committee, in view of the paucity of local products and manufactures, replied that while the Chamber would with pleasure make public the proposal, it could not pledge itself to any active co-operation in the work.

LOCAL TELEGRAPH TARIFFS.

The desirability of securing a reduction in the local tariffs for telegrams has not been lost sight of by your Committee, and in June last a letter was addressed to the Joint Telegraph Companies reminding them of an intimation given some time previously of a contemplated concession in rates. To this a reply was given announcing reductions commencing from 1st July in rates to the Straits Settlements, Labuan, Macao, and Netherlands Indies. This was followed in December by a further reduction in the tariff to the above countries and a substantial concession in rates to India, Burmah, Ceylon Indo-China, Australia, and other countries, and a reduction has also been made in the rate for Press telegrams.

THE INCREASE IN TELEGRAPH RATES TO EUROPE AND AMERICA.

While, however, the reductions in local tariffs by the Telegraph Companies were accepted as proof of a desire on their part to meet the wishes of the public, the conduct of the Companies in suddenly raising their rates to Europe, America, and Shanghai on the 1st August with only one day's notice naturally aroused strong opposition. Your Committee at once took

action, and telegraphed to the various Chambers in the Far East inviting their co-operation, following the cable messages up with letters, and on the 19th September, at a special general meeting of members, passed resolutions condemning the action of the Telegraph Companies in raising the rates as unjustifiable, regretting the sanction given by Her Majesty's Government to the convention which conferred an absolute monopoly on the Joint Companies, and pledging the Chamber, in the event of the Companies refusing to reduce these rates, to give its fullest support to any Company that, while providing an efficient service, will agree to charge moderate rates between the Far East and Europe and America. Copies of the report of the proceedings at that meeting were forwarded to the local Government, the Foreign Office, the British Minister at Peking, the Telegraph Companies, the China Association, to all the Chambers of Commerce in the Far East, India, Ceylon, the principal Chambers in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australasia, the United States, Germany, France, and other continental countries, ten copies being also sent to each of the Foreign Consuls for distribution. Numerous replies have been received, and co-operation promised from various Chambers and other bodies, and on the 23rd January a reply to the Chamber's letter was received from the Foreign Office, in which, after explaining at length the reasons which induced Her Majesty's Government to ratify the Telegraph Convention, it was shown that, apart from collateral advantages, such as large immediate reductions in local rates (i.e., between Hongkong and other Eastern countries, Australia, &c.) the Government, acting in defence of the interests of the commercial community, secured the insertion in the new convention of provisions binding the Telegraph Companies to a reduction in the charge from the United Kingdom to China of 1s. 6d. per word, while preventing a large increase of the amount to be collected in local currency in this colony and China. This courteous letter has been duly acknowledged with thanks for the careful consideration of the question given by the noble lord the Foreign Secretary. Your Committee are still satisfied, however, that, under the circumstances, the action of the Telegraph Companies called for strong protest, and they are confident that that protest will prove not to have been made in vain.

THE LIGHT DUES.

The question of the Light Dues has again occupied a good deal of the attention of your Committee. On the 31st July a letter was addressed to the Government, asking whether His Excellency the Governor would redeem the pledge made by his predecessor, and abolish the special Gap Rock Light Tax, the time having arrived for such redemption owing to the amount collected having considerably exceeded the cost of the erection of the Light-house, the purpose for which it was imposed. To this inquiry a reply was received in the middle of August, stating that the question was receiving attention. Nothing further was heard of the question until November, when a letter was addressed by the Governor to the Unofficial Members of Council stating that if the Special Rate be abolished, there would be a deficiency in the revenue compared with the expenditure, and asking them, if agreed on the desirability of abolishing the Gap Rock dues, to suggest how the deficit could best be made good. The Unofficial Members having (with one dissentient, the Hon. T. H. Whitehead) recommended the redemption of the pledge made by Sir William Des Vœux and the imposition of a tax of 2½ cents per ton instead, thus merely altering the name and rendering a temporary tax permanent, a petition signed by all the shipping companies and firms (with one exception) was presented to the Governor praying His Excellency to revert to the old arrangement under which only the amount charged for the upkeep of the lights, &c., was collected, namely, one cent per ton, and asking that the matter might be referred to the Secretary of State. To this the Governor has responded by forwarding the petition to Downing Street, and meantime the Chamber has by addressing a letter to the Government in support of the petition and by circulating the same among the principal Chambers both in the Far

East and in the United Kingdom done its utmost to aid in securing the object aimed at, namely, the maintenance intact of the freedom of the port.

THE HARBOUR MASTER'S TRADE STATISTICS.

Attention having been directed to certain inaccuracies of imports published in the Harbour Master's report for 1895, a letter was in August last addressed to the Government calling attention to the fact, and suggesting the desirability of discontinuing returns which so long as they remain partial or defective are necessarily liable to mislead.

OPENING OF THE WEST RIVER TO FOREIGN TRADE.

One great object for which this Chamber has patiently and persistently laboured has at length in part been attained. The great importance of opening up the inland waterways of South China was recognised by this Chamber very early in its history, and, in pursuance of this design, in 1870 it despatched the then Secretary on a mission of exploration as far as Nanning-fu on the West River. He returned with much valuable information, subsequently embodied in a report, the publication of which greatly stimulated public interest, and since that time the subject has been brought forward at intervals, and agitated. On his arrival in China last year as British Minister, Sir Claude MacDonald favoured your Committee with an interview and discussed this question among others. It is gratifying to now learn, therefore, that an agreement was signed at Peking on the 4th February, whereby the Chinese Government undertake to open two ports on the West River as Treaty ports, and four other places as calling stations whereat passengers and cargo may be landed, such agreement to come into force on the 4th June next, the date fixed for its ratification. Most cordial and hearty thanks are due to Sir Claude MacDonald for the important service he has rendered.

PROPOSED OFFICIAL TELEGRAPH CODE VOCABULARY.

The proposal to enforce the use of an Official Telegraph Code Vocabulary upon the mercantile public, and against which your Committee agitated strenuously last year, has been shelved for the present. It will be recollected that, in addition to other action, a joint letter signed by all the Chambers in the Far East was addressed to the International Telegraph Bureau, Berne, protesting against the code, and was laid before the Telegraph Conference held at Buda-Pesth in the summer, when it was decided that the Vocabulary is to be enlarged and not to come into effect until after a date to be fixed by the next conference in 1901. Meantime the assistance of the Chamber was asked to induce owners and compilers of private codes to forward copies of the same to the International Telegraph Office at Berne.

PARIS INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, 1900.

The Committee, as in the case of the Brussels Exhibition of 1897, have been invited to co-operate to make a local exhibit in the above Exhibition, but, in reply to the letter from the Government forwarding copy of the despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and enclosures on the subject, the Committee felt compelled to decline taking any active part, but suggested publication of the correspondence for the information of intending exhibitors.

TAXATION OF FOREIGN GOODS MADE IN CHINA.

In reply to representations from the Shanghai Chamber stating that Committees had been appointed to report on the above as it affected various branches of trade, and asking the co-operation of this Chamber, an answer was returned expressing readiness to afford aid, but stating that as this colony is in a different position to the Treaty Ports, the Committee desired to know what form they wished such co-operation to take.

REQUEST FOR AN OPINION FROM THE CHAMBER.

In December last a communication was received from the Manager of the China and Japan Telephone Co., Limited, laying a case before the Committee, and asking for an expression of opinion thereon. A reply was sent stating that, under its by-laws, the Chamber was debarred from expressing any opinion unless the matter was submitted to it for arbitra-

tion and that one at least of the parties is a Member of the Chamber.

THE OPERATION OF THE VAGRANCY ORDINANCE.

The hardships entailed on shipowners and masters by the operation of the Vagrancy Ordinance (No. 12 of 1888) having been brought very prominently into relief by a case in which the master of the British steamer *Chingtu* was fined \$600, for detaining some Japanese stowaways after arrival of the vessel in port, a letter was on the 5th January addressed to the Government pointing out the injustice caused in its working, and suggesting some modification of its provisions. So far no response has been given to the suggestion, but it is hoped the matter is under the consideration of the Law Officers of the colony.

HONGKONG AND THE POSTAL SUBSIDY.

Another attempt is being made to compel this colony to pay what is computed to be its share of the subsidy to the P. & O. S. N. Co. for carrying the Eastern mails calculated on a mileage basis. The last attempt made, in 1893, to get the colony to contribute £12,000 as its share of the subsidy, was successfully withstood by the Colonial Office, and was ultimately compounded for half that amount. It is now sought to obtain a sum which will approximate to £12,000, and the Chamber has been invited by the Government to express their views on the subject. The matter is now under consideration, and, needless to say, your Committee will not fail to fight this question out to the end, as the demand, if conceded, would lead to an unreasonable and unjust imposition on the colony.

THE CHAMBER'S REPRESENTATIVE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On the 19th September, at a special general meeting of the members of the Chamber, Mr. Thomas Henderson Whitehead, whose appointment as member of the Legislative Council terminated on that date, was, on the invitation of the Governor, re-nominated to that position, and the decision of the Chamber having been duly conveyed through the usual channel, His Excellency announced that he should have great pleasure in re-appointing its nominee to a seat on the Council.

THE COMMITTEE.

The Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, who at the last annual meeting was in his absence elected Chairman of the Committee, having declined the honour at its next subsequent sitting, Mr. A. McConachie, the Vice-Chairman, was elected Chairman and Mr. Herbert Smith consented to accept the Vice-Chair. Mr. McConachie, who has since left for England, tendered his resignation on the 3rd April. Mr. G. B. Dodwell tendered his resignation on leaving the colony in September last, and Mr. R. M. Gray has since accepted an invitation to rejoin the Committee.

MEMBERS.

The roll of members has been materially increased during the past year, and no losses have been sustained either by death or resignation. The following have been admitted to membership subject to confirmation at the annual meeting:—Messrs. W. G. Humphreys & Co., Mr. E. Robinson, Messrs. F. Blackhead & Co., Harling, Buschmann & Menzell, Sander & Co., Wm. Meyerink & Co., Radecker & Co., Jepsen & Co., Wieler & Co., M. S. Sassoon & Co., Drs. Hartigan, Stedman & Rennie, The Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, Mr. W. Danby, Mr. H. L. Dennys, Messrs. Harvie & Co., Mr. A. R. Marty, The Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Mr. Paul Jordan, The China Merchants' Steam Navigation Co., Messrs. Grossmann & Co., Kruse & Co., H. Skött & Co., the Hongkong & China Gas Co., Limited, and Mr. Ho Fook.

FINANCE.

The accounts for the year ending 31st December were audited by Messrs. Gershom Stewart and J. Y. V. Vernon. The balance at the credit of Chamber amounted to \$3,266.48, of which amount the sum of \$3,000 was at the commencement of the current year placed on fixed deposit. The Pinnacle Rock Fund (now amounting to \$3,173.89) is also still on fixed deposit, both accounts being in the hands of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1897.

SECRET MEETINGS OF THE UN-OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

The following correspondence has been forwarded to us by the Hon. T. H. Whitehead for publication:—

HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD TO THE GOVERNOR.
Hongkong, 24th April, 1897.

Dear Sir William,—I observe from the correspondence in connection with the Light Dues question, published in this morning's paper, that a reply has been received from the Secretary of State, dated 17th ulto, to your Excellency's despatch of 18th January, forwarding the petition from the Shipping community dated 24th December last.

I have now the honour to request that you will be so good as to instruct the Honourable the Colonial Secretary to send me a copy of your Excellency's despatch to the Secretary of State forwarding my letter dated the 2nd December last on the same subject, together with a copy of the Secretary of State's reply thereto. It will be observed that my letter of 2nd December was written some six to seven weeks prior to your Excellency's letter of 18th January now acknowledged.—I have the honour to be, yours very truly,

(Signed) T. H. WHITEHEAD.
His Excellency Sir William Robinson,
K.C.M.G. &c., &c., &c.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY TO HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 26th April, 1897.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 24th instant, I am directed to forward to you a copy of the correspondence noted in the margin.*—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable T. H. Whitehead.

* 1.—Despatch from Governor to Secretary of State, enclosing correspondence regarding Light Dues, &c. 2.—The reply of the Secretary of State.

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

Hongkong, 21st December, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward herewith copies of Sessional Paper No. 37 of 1896 containing a correspondence which has passed between me and the Unofficial Members of Council on the subject of Light Dues, a letter from the Honourable T. H. Whitehead, and a discussion which took place in the Legislative Council on the subject of Mr. Whitehead's letter.

2.—You will observe that in his letter Mr. Whitehead desires that what he terms his protest may be forwarded to you and this is my reason for transmitting to you the correspondence to which reference is made above.

3.—I do not propose on the present occasion to deal with the general question of Light Dues, which will form the subject of a separate communication when the matter has been discussed in Council and I am in possession of the views of the shipping firms, which I understand will be communicated to me shortly.

4.—With regard to Mr. Whitehead's protest against consulting the Unofficial Members of Council privately, it will be seen on reference to the correspondence with the Unofficial Members and the discussion in Council that I had no desire to consult them privately and expressed no wish and gave no indication that the official communication addressed by me to the Senior Unofficial Member should be regarded as confidential or secret. As a matter of fact, both Mr. Whitehead and the Honourable Ho Kai stated in Council that they had not treated it as such, but that they had consulted those whose interests they as Members of the Legislative Council are supposed to represent on the matter with which the correspondence deals.

5.—With respect to Mr. Whitehead's desire that the Estimates should be introduced at an earlier date, I will cause a note to be made of his wishes in this respect, which are reasonable

and which are in accord with the Financial Instructions on the subject of the date of introducing the Estimates into Council.—I have, &c.,

(Sd.) WILLIAM ROBINSON.
The Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain,
M.P.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE GOVERNOR.

Downing Street, 27th January, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 287 of the 21st ultimo enclosing copies of correspondence between yourself and the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council on the subject of the Gap Rock Lighthouse Rate, together with a copy of a letter from Mr. Whitehead on the subject and a report of a discussion which took place in the Legislative Council.

2.—On the general question of the Light Dues I shall await your promised despatch, which shall receive the most careful consideration.

3.—The delay in the publication of the Estimates to which Mr. Whitehead alludes is a common subject of reasonable complaint and care will no doubt be taken that in future years Estimates are placed before the Council at an earlier date.

4.—The question of the procedure adopted on the occasion in point was one for the Governor's discretion, and I am not inclined to comment upon either the substance or the form of Mr. Whitehead's representations.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. CHAMBERLAIN.
Governor Sir W. Robinson, K.C.M.G., &c. &c.,

DR. AYRES AND THE POLICE.

PRESENTATION OF AN ADDRESS.

On the 28th April the members of the Hongkong Police Force presented an address to Dr. Ayres on his departure from the colony. Dr. Ayres has held the position of Colonial Surgeon in Hongkong for upwards of 23 years, and during the whole of that time has been the medical adviser to the Police. Having retired from the Colonial Service the esteemed doctor leaves to-day for England, and the members of the Force took this opportunity of showing their appreciation of his past services by the presentation of a farewell address. The men were drawn up on the parade ground at four o'clock and after being inspected by the Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent) and Dr. Ayres, the presentation was made in their presence.

The Captain Superintendent said he had been asked by the members of the Police Force to make the presentation. By the retirement of Dr. Ayres the Police would lose a very old and true friend, a friend who had proved the truth of the old saying that a friend in need is a friend indeed. It was not only in sickness that they had found their worthy doctor a true and valuable friend; but out of the sick room he had always cheered them with his kind interest in their welfare. Dr. Ayres was held in great affection by every member of the Police Force and it was as a slight token of their regard and esteem that they asked his acceptance of the address.

Mr. May then read the address, which was as follows:—"To Philip Burnard Chenery Ayres, C.M.G., M.B.C.S., Eng.; L.M., L.R.C.P., Edin. Sir, We, the undersigned members of the Police Force, desire to express to you, on your retirement from the Public Service, our warmest thanks for the many acts of kindness that we and our families have experienced at your hands, our high sense of your professional skill, our profound appreciation of the self sacrificing devotion you have ever evinced in furthering our welfare, and our heartfelt gratitude for your never failing succour and sympathy in the hour of sickness and sorrow.

"For over twenty-three years you have held the important post of Colonial Surgeon in this colony. During the whole of that time you alone have had the professional care of ourselves, our wives, and children.

"You have had besides many other arduous duties to perform, as head of the Medical Depart-

ment of the colony, as a member, and for many years President of the Sanitary Board, and as the adviser of the Government in matters relating to the Public Health of the Community.

"But whatever the urgent and constant calls upon your time, your strength, and your professional resources, we have ever found you ready and more than willing to assist us, to guard our health, to alleviate the sufferings of those who are dependent upon us, and to promote our well-being and happiness.

"In you we have known a skilful surgeon, an able and successful physician, a wise counsellor, a warm and sympathetic friend. You will always be remembered in this force as a generous benefactor, whose devoted aid has never failed us, and whose kindly smile and cheering word have ever shed sunshine in our homes in this far distant country.

"With sorrowing hearts we bid you farewell. We pray for your speedy restoration to health and strength, and we wish you the full enjoyment of the rest which you have so nobly earned by your unselfish labours."

Mr. May then handed to Dr. Ayres the address, adding that it had not yet been got up in an illuminated form. Like most other people in the colony they were taken somewhat by surprise by the early date of Dr. Ayres's departure. The address would be sent on when finished, signed by every member of the Force.

Dr. Ayres, in a voice broken with emotion and almost inaudible, briefly acknowledged the presentation and thanked the men for their kindness. He said that during his 23 years' connection with the force as medical adviser he had no doubt troubled them a great deal with his "nasty physic," but they had always carried out his orders with cheerfulness. Taking the force all-round he considered them a very fine healthy body of men. It was with great regret that he bid them farewell, but when in England he would be gratified to look back and know that he had won their regard and esteem.

Mr. May added a few words on behalf of the wives and families of the men and then called for three cheers for Dr. Ayres, which were given with great gusto. The parade was then dismissed.

ARRIVAL OF MRS. CAREW IN HONGKONG.

On the 3rd May, Mrs. Carew arrived in Hongkong from Yokohama by the P. & O. steamer *Ancona* and she is now lodged in Victoria Gaol. Her departure from Yokohama was kept absolutely secret, it not being generally known until after the *Ancona* left that Mrs. Carew was on board. She was taken to the vessel at eleven o'clock on the night of the 24th April by an English warder from the gaol and there was also a Chinese amah, presumably her own, with her. The *Ancona* sailed at daylight on the following morning, but it was not until later in the day that the interesting news got abroad in Yokohama. Mrs. Carew had a first class cabin to herself on the main deck and second class fare, which was privately served to her, and during the whole of the voyage she seemed to be in robust health. She has a ruddy complexion and a good figure, and was dressed in black. For the first two or three days Mrs. Carew remained for the most of the time in her cabin and was seen on deck only for about half an hour in the morning. On the first day everyone on board made a point of catching a glimpse of the murderess, but this curiosity soon wore off and afterwards no one took much notice of her. During the last three days of the voyage she spent most of her time on deck, when she either read books or conversed with the warder or the amah. She appeared to be quite indifferent and there was no trace of a careworn look in her face. The *Ancona* arrived in port at five o'clock and a police pinnace at once went alongside, but Mrs. Carew asked to be allowed to have her breakfast before landing and this request was granted, the meal being served, as on previous occasions, in her room. About 9.30 she was taken ashore and quietly removed to Victoria Gaol.

THE COLONY'S FINANCES.

The statement of revenue and expenditure for 1896 and other financial returns were laid on the table of the Legislative Council yesterday. The total revenue, exclusive of land sales and water account, was \$2,250,179, as against \$2,275,577 in 1895. Many items show an increase, the largest being fines (\$27,289) and medical treatment of patients in Civil Hospital (\$18,601), while amongst the decreases the largest are under the heads of "other miscellaneous receipts" (\$64,586) and profit on subsidiary coins (\$42,405). Land sales amounted to \$270,859, showing an increase of \$140,387 on the preceding year. The net increase of revenue, including land sales and water account, was \$123,650.

The expenditure in 1896 was \$2,474,910, being a decrease of \$497,463, but while public works extraordinary (other than those chargeable to loan) amounted to \$837,842 in 1895, the expenditure under this head in 1896 was only \$69,511, the large expenditure in 1895 being accounted for chiefly by the Taipingshan Resumption. In military expenditure there was an increase of \$156,972.

The following is the statement of the colony's assets and liabilities on the 31st December, 1896:—

| ASSETS. | \$ | c. |
|------------------------------------|------------|----|
| Subsidiary coins | 38,000.00 | |
| Balance in bank at current account | 700,717.26 | |
| Balance in hands of Crown Agents | 34,641.93 | |
| Deposit in England at call | 207,567.57 | |
| Arrears of taxes | 628.88 | |
| Arrears of Crown rent | 53,452.03 | |
| Advances to be recovered | 31,563.38 | |

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Total Assets.. | \$1,066,571.05 |
| LIABILITIES. | \$ c. |
| Drafts drawn by Crown Agents, in transit | 200,000.00 |
| Military contribution | 7,247.73 |
| Deposits not available | 49,341.06 |
| Praya reclamation deposit account | 225,000.00 |
| Refund of taxes | 3,200.00 |
| Officers' remittances, not yet paid | 395.00 |
| Money orders, not yet paid | 4,732.80 |
| Transit charges | 5,500.00 |
| Pensions due to Civil Officers | 12,670.00 |
| Do. Police | 9,520.00 |

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Total Liabilities | \$517,606.59 |
| Balance | \$548,964.46 |

\$1,066,571.05

*Balance of assets and liabilities... \$548,964.46
Less balance of 1893 loan ... 535,546.14

\$13,418.32

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS AND AMBULANCE WORK.

The result of the examination held by Surgeon-Colonel Evatt of the ambulance class formed in connection with the Hongkong Volunteer Corps is in this week's orders. The successful candidates are Lieutenant Wylie (very proficient) and Gunners J. Barry, L. E. Brett, G. T. Crook, J. H. R. Hance, C. E. A. Hance, A. J. Mackie, A. P. Nobbs, and A. L. Sutton (all proficient). There were twelve candidates altogether, so that the percentage of passes is on the whole satisfactory and speaks well for the care shown by Surgeon-Lieutenant Stedman in the lectures on first aid and by Sergeant-Major Sherwood in the stretcher drill. Those who passed will be entitled to wear the Red Cross of the Geneva Convention, a badge which indicates that the bearer is competent to take his place in a regimental bearer company of the Medical Staff Corps in case of need. We now hope to hear of the formation of such a company in connection with the Hongkong Volunteer Corps. No doubt there are many gentlemen in the colony who, while not wishing to join the Field Battery or the Maxim Gun Company, would willingly join an ambulance corps for instruction in rendering first aid, particularly with reference to its application on the battle-field. We understand that Dr. Stedman would most heartily render his valuable services towards the fulfilment of such a good object

and under his guidance there would be no fear of such a scheme failing. Moreover, apart from the fillip an ambulance corps would give to the Volunteer movement and the general good promoted by instruction in first aid principles, there is a further and perhaps more important point to be considered. That is the retention of knowledge gained by those who have earned the Red Cross. It is most important that each man wearing the Cross should be absolutely reliable in rendering assistance in case of emergency, and the only way by which efficiency can be maintained is the establishment of a bearer company, or at any rate a course of lectures each winter with a final examination. Because a man passes an examination in first aid and stretcher drill this year it does not follow that, without the aid of further instruction and practical demonstration of the work, he would pass a similar examination next year: indeed considering that a man's ordinary vocation lies in an altogether different sphere the probabilities are greatly against such an idea. Therefore we strongly advocate the formation of a Hongkong Volunteer Medical Staff Corps and we think it would not be asking too much if those who had won the Red Cross were called upon to pass an examination each year before they could wear the badge in the following year. Should the corps be formed we hope the authorities will press for the provision of up-to-date stretchers; the stretchers at present in use have seen their day. The men might also be instructed in the mysteries of a surgical haversack; such a thing has not yet been seen at the Volunteer headquarters.

A WRECKED STEAMER ON FIRE.

The captain of the steamer *Letimbro*, which arrived in port on the 28th April from Bombay, makes the following report: "On the 25th April, at about 8 a.m., when south-east of the Bombay shoal (Paracels Reef), we observed on the horizon towards the north-east a cloud of smoke. Thinking it was a steamer on fire we steered towards the ship and on going about two miles we found that it was a three-masted steamer with a black funnel, which had gone on the rocks about south-east of the Bombay shoal. We hoisted our national flag and also the signal 'Do you want assistance?' Not far away from the steamer were anchored eleven Chinese junks, and as no response was given to our signals we judged that the vessel had been abandoned and that the junks were waiting for salvage, and therefore we went on our course again. We have no idea how the fire broke out on the steamer." The vessel seen by the *Letimbro* was probably the *Himeji Maru*, wrecked and abandoned several months ago.

THE SUGAR MARKET IN JAPAN.

In the annual report of the Hyogo and Osaka General Chamber of Commerce the following reference is made to the sugar market:—

The year 1896 opened with large stocks of Hongkong refined sugars in buyers' hands, whilst considerable sales had been made towards the close of 1895 for arrival during 1896. The market was in consequence very quiet during the early months of the year, and it was not until July that any good demand arose. Total sales for the year amounted to 378,456 piculs against 590,432 piculs in 1895, a year in which sales were abnormally heavy.

Prices had a slight downward tendency during the year and closed as follows:—Nos. 1 and 2 \$9.00, No. 3, \$8.85, and No. 4, \$7.60 per picul.

A considerable increase in the importations of beet sugars from Germany is to be noticed. Imports amounted to about 108,000 piculs, which were sold at prices ranging from \$8.50 to \$8.80 per picul, though towards the end of the year prices declined to \$7.50 to \$7.90 per picul.

In brown sugars imports amounted to 136,083 piculs against 124,690 piculs in 1895, showing an increase of 11,393 piculs.

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

The Honorary Treasurer of the Indian Famine Relief Fund begs to intimate that he has forwarded to the Hon. Secretary Central Committee, Calcutta, the sum of Rs. 651.20, equivalent at Ex. 160 of \$407, amount collected in North Formosa by H.M. Consul, Tamsui, as per the following list:—

| | |
|--|------|
| H. A. C. Bonar | \$50 |
| Mrs. Bonar | 25 |
| Rev. C. L. Mackay, D.D. | 25 |
| Rev. W. Gauld | 25 |
| E. P. W. Shrimshire | 25 |
| F. Ashton | 25 |
| Robert Hughes | 25 |
| C. M. Chin (Lapraik, Cass & Co.) | 25 |
| Lee Choon Sing | 25 |
| Choa Tek Hee | 25 |
| Dr. Merz | 10 |
| J. W. Davidson | 10 |
| J. M. Tait | 10 |
| E. Harold Low | 10 |
| J. E. Siebermann | 10 |
| Dr. A. N. Wilkinson | 10 |
| E. N. dos Remedios | 10 |
| Yung Ke Niu | 10 |
| Kian Song | 10 |
| Kiam Joo | 10 |
| Yong Kem Chee | 5 |
| Yung Cheong Toon (Lapraik, Cass & Co.) | 5 |
| Chii Shun Tin (Lapraik, Cass & Co.) | 5 |
| Ling Senteng (Lapraik, Cass & Co.) | 5 |
| Y. Theanlye | 5 |
| Kee Yok Kwon (Lapraik, Cass & Co.) | 2 |
| Shoon Choo Cheong | 2 |
| J. C. Cheetham | 2 |
| M. Isoda | 1 |

\$407

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION AT TAMSUI.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Taipeifu, 27th April.

Tamsui has not in the past been particularly famous, that I know of, in getting in ahead of her eastern neighbours, but she surely has made a record for herself this time.

It was the "Celebration of the 60th Year of the Reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty The Queen of England" as the invitations, most tastefully printed in gold and bronze, informed us. The date was set for St. George's Day, 23rd April, and the celebration passed off without hitch or mishap. It was quite the greatest social gathering that has ever occurred in Formosa and will be long remembered by those who were so fortunate as to be present. The Twatutia community, which is really the only foreign community that counts up to a dozen in the island, made their way down river to Hobe, where is situated the English Consulate, which had been selected as the most suitable place to hold the day's festivities. The British steamer *Haimun* was there to give her assistance and the Japanese gunboat *Sokogo* had come around from Kelung to fire a salute and engage in the festivities generally.

The Japanese guests, as well as some half dozen foreigners who had accepted the kind invitation of H.E. the Governor-General to join them, departed from Twatutia at 2 p.m. in a large Government launch, accompanied by a launch carrying guards, servants, etc., and a third launch carrying the capital city band. Light refreshments were served on board and with pleasing musical selections by the band the trip down river, which is usually to be avoided, was made quite a pleasant part of the day's proceedings. Arriving at Hobe the city was found to be in holiday attire, the old Dutch fort standing out above all with two long lines of flags brought down to the ground on two sides from the high flag staff which rises above the building. The *Haimun* was dressed up in her very best. The party proceeded to the Consular grounds, where Consul Bonar and wife, Mrs. Gould, and others received them. The lawn between the old Dutch fort and the Consular residence had been dotted with chairs and settees, while from a table at one side

were provided light refreshments and drinkables. At 4 p.m. a Japanese fencing match, in which four of the most skilful fencers the island affords took part, furnished most interesting amusement for an hour or so, after which several group photographs were taken. The whole party then climbed the two pair of narrow staircases, which brought them to the roof of that most interesting relic of Formosan history, "the old Dutch fort." This structure, with its walls of seven and eight feet of masonry and lime was built by the Dutch about two hundred and fifty years ago. It is as firm and solid and as imposing as in the days when the Dutch were battling with the Spanish and Portuguese for the supremacy of trade in the China seas. That it has lost nothing in strength and is still formidable the French bombardment of 1884 has given evidence, for during that engagement it was struck hard and true, but the shells did no damage, and scarcely left a mark to show where they had struck. It is a most impressive monument of longevity and as such was a fitting place to celebrate the long life and reign of good Queen Victoria. From its ancient battlements a display of day fireworks was witnessed and a historical song of old Japan sung to the accompaniment of the ancient string instrument, a biwa. A splendid view of the surrounding country and village could be obtained from this point and the decorations erected in honour of the day showed to great advantage. The Oxford School erected by Dr. Mackay was prominent among them, with a big arch bearing the words "God Bless Our Queen," and the various Japanese Government establishments were flaunting their newest and biggest flags. Leaving the fort, the guests were entertained for a brief half-hour by Mrs. Bonar at the Consular residence, where a splendid display of Japanese works of art, rare brocades, embroideries, etc., formed a pleasing contrast to the blank warehouses which, with a few exceptions, are used as residences in Formosa.

At half-past seven in the evening all reappeared in the chambers of the old Dutch fort, which by the use of flags and flowers had been transformed into a banquetting hall such as Tamsui had never seen before. The half-a-hundred guests ate and drank heartily, after which Consul Bonar in a very few words proposed the toast of the Queen, which was drunk to the strains of "God save the Queen" by the band. His Excellency General Baron Nogi, the Governor-General of Formosa, then arose and in a short speech stated that he considered it a great honour to be present at such a splendid celebration and for so good a cause. Mr. Bonar, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, and other loyal subjects had gathered together at Tamsui, in the island over which he in the service of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan was Governor, ten thousand miles from their homes. This gave him great pleasure and he wished to join them all in praying for the continued health of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Empress of India. After drinking to the health of Her Majesty the Rev. Dr. Mackay, as the oldest resident in Formosa then present, in a few words proposed the health of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, which was drunk while the band played the Japanese national air.

Elaborately printed menus with a colotype portrait of Her Majesty and three illustrations of Tamsui scenery afforded elegant souvenirs for the guests.

Could the old Dutch Governors have looked down upon the scene, it must have proved a rare surprise for them. There in their citadel, standing on the ground which had only been gained to them after a hard struggle with the Spanish, its very walls now hidden by flags other than their own, were gathered about the festive board the representatives of England, Japan, Germany, France, and America, and had they sought for one of their own nationality it would have been in vain even had they searched the whole island.

After the tables had been deserted the guests again climbed the tower-like ladders to the roof, from which illuminations, including a large "V.R." some thirty or forty feet in height and the largest display of fireworks that Formosa

has ever known, were witnessed by both guests and populace.

After a splendid day of pleasure the up-river guests departed in the small hours of the morning with the feeling that the little British community—only fifteen in all—had furnished a grand day of pleasure and fully done their share in commemorating the 60th year of the reign of their beloved queen.

The guests present were H.E. Governor-General Baron Nogi, Lieut.-General Tatsumi, Chief of the Military Department, Rear-Admiral Tsunoda, Chief of the Navy Department, Mr. Izawa, Acting Chief of the Civil Department, Mr. Sugimura, Chief of the Foreign Affairs Department, Mr. Nomura, Commissioner of Customs, officers of the Japanese gunboat *Sokogo*, and other high Japanese officials, the Consular representatives of France, Germany, and America, and Consul Kenny of the British Consulate at Anping, Captain Bathhurst and officers of the steamship *Haimun*. In all there were 25 Britishers, including four naturalized Chinese, 23 Japanese, 3 Germans, 2 Americans, and 1 Frenchman.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

The first ordinary annual general meeting of the shareholders in Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited, was held at the offices of the Company, on the 30th April, at noon. Mr. Hart Buck presided and there were also present Messrs. G. R. Stevens, C. Ewins (Consulting Committee), H. Humphreys, H. E. Allen, J. S. Hagen, A. P. Nobbs, P. Jordan, H. E. Pollock, Sin Tak Fan, Fung Wah Chuen, Lau Chu Pak, G. H. Potts, C. Georg, J. M. E. Machado, C. H. Dann, and S. S. Benjamin.

The notice calling the meeting was read by Mr. Humphreys.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, with your permission, I will adopt the usual course and take as read the report and statement of accounts. You will see in the working account a sum of \$594.96 charged to Olivers wages; this I may explain to you was the amount paid for prospecting on the Olivers Freehold. This work was discontinued as we deemed it advisable to make a success of the Eureka Mine before doing very much on the Freehold. The cost of sinking the new shaft and driving to intercept the reef of the Eureka Mine has been charged to the Mine as an asset and not to the debit of working account. From the time we commenced taking out stone from the reef, wages will of course be charged to working account. You will notice under the heading of assets an item of \$11,641.54. This is an amount which was due from the New Balmoral Gold Mining Company at the end of the year and has since been received. Accounts payable \$7,683.61 represents the amount due to the General Managers at the end of the year. I may add that the General Managers are entitled to charge the Company with office rent and clerks' salaries in Hongkong, but have made no charge for the year under review. I think, gentlemen, I have said enough respecting the accounts, and should like to say a few words about our property. With regard to the Freehold itself, as I have already told you, nothing has been done so far as mining is concerned with the exception of a little prospecting. Our idea is first to thoroughly develop the Eureka Mine and then commence on Olivers Freehold. The Eureka Mine was carefully examined in March, 1896, by the late Mr. Willmott, and it was at once decided that the existing shaft was unsafe, and that it would be necessary to sink a new shaft 40 feet from the old one. This as you are aware has been successfully carried out, and the shaft sunk to a depth of 200 feet; and I am very pleased to be able to inform you that the results up to the present time have been most satisfactory. We have had two crushings amounting in all to 246 tons of stone which gave us 282 ounces of gold, an average of about 1 ounce 3 dwts per ton, worth roughly \$11,000. I hear there is an impression among some of our shareholders that these results had been obtained from picked stone, but I have it on the authority of Mr. J. D. Humphreys, who was at that time in Sydney, and in daily communication with the mine, that in the first crushing, which gave 1 ounce 9 dwts to the ton,

there was not an ounce of picked stone; in fact, they crushed all they had taken out from the mine. We also learn that the reef is wider at the 200 foot level than at the 150 level and gives indications of getting still wider underfoot. There is no doubt, gentlemen, that it is the genuine opinion of miners at Mount McDonald that we have made a success, and I hear that some of the men consider that the Eureka reef is likely to turn out one of the best in New South Wales. I do not like to be too sanguine, but I think from what we hear we are justified in saying that we consider the mine is a pronounced success. In speaking of our staff in Australia, I regret to say we have to deplore the loss of Mr. Willmott, sen., whose death occurred in January last. He was not only universally liked and respected by all who knew him, but he proved himself during his comparatively short business association with our Company to be a miner of exceptional ability, and we can safely say that everything which he predicted on taking over the management of the mines has up to the present time been fulfilled. Unfortunately his sad death when success had been all but attained precluded his having the satisfaction of seeing the results of his prediction. In the late Mr. Willmott's son, Mr. C. J. Willmott, our financial agent at the mines, we feel confident we have a most capable business man and one on whom we can thoroughly rely. Mr. Oglethorpe, our present mining manager, is a man of great experience, and has shown by the manner in which he has carried out the work in the Eureka Mine that he is the right man in the right place and confirmed the high opinion the late Mr. Willmott always had of him. It may interest shareholders to hear that Mr. J. D. Humphreys, who has been in Australia from June, 1896, to the end of March last, spent the greater part of that time at the mines. He has now left for England thoroughly satisfied that our interests will be carefully and efficiently looked after. As regards future work at the Eureka, it is now proposed to sink the shaft another 170 feet and thus largely extend our field of operations; you will see by the plan on the table what has been done and what we intend doing. One important subject is that of tailings and the best method of treating them; we expect ours to be valuable and are giving this matter careful consideration. There are, as you know, various processes, and we have written to the mines for all information on this point and have no doubt that Mr. Oglethorpe will be able to advise us as to the most suitable treatment. I do not think, gentlemen, I have anything more to say, but one thing is certain; those on the spot who are best able to form a sound opinion are confident of our success. Before moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, I shall be pleased to answer questions.

Mr. GEORG—With regard to the Eureka mine would it not be better—I quite agree that the sinking of the shaft should be an asset, but would it not have been better if you had shown how much you had spent and in what way. It was \$35,000, I believe.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, quite right.

Mr. GEORG—Have you spent \$19,000 on the shaft?

The CHAIRMAN—We have.

Mr. GEORG—That is £1,900.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—On the working, manager's wages, &c.

The CHAIRMAN—Not in the actual sinking.

Mr. GEORG—Would it not be better to show that in the report as other companies do?

The CHAIRMAN—I have just told you that in future these things will be charged to the working account, but while the development is going on and there is no opportunity of getting results we are quite right in charging it as an asset.

Mr. GEORG—\$19,000, on the face of it, is an enormous sum for sinking a shaft.

The CHAIRMAN—The wages are down there; it includes the wages of everyone. If you look at the working account you will see that wages for the men are not charged. They are all charged as an asset to the mine itself.

Mr. GEORG—That would be equal to £9 per foot in sinking the shaft, including all expenses.

The CHAIRMAN—There are certain wages that must be paid at the mines beyond the

actual sinking. I should say that the sinking would probably cost about £3.10s. a foot.

Mr. GEORG—That is about the price.

The CHAIRMAN—That is allowing for blacksmiths and various other men who have been employed. I shall be very happy to give you the exact details.

Mr. GEORG—I only thought it would have been better to put it in this way, that you had paid so much for the property and so much since development.

The CHAIRMAN—It is entirely a matter of opinion.

Mr. GEORG—Of course, the shaft is an asset and it could be easily shown in that way.

The CHAIRMAN—It is merely a matter of opinion; I do not think it is a material matter in any case.

Mr. GEORG—I should like to ask another question in regard to the liabilities. Has the whole capital been called up?

The CHAIRMAN—Not the whole of the capital; a call has not been made on a certain number of shares.

Mr. GEORG—I mean that the papers speak of 40,000 B shares. They have been paid up to \$23 a share, haven't they?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Mr. GEORG—You do not show that; you do not show how the capital has been called up.

The CHAIRMAN—That is the exact state of affairs at the end of the year. We are speaking of last year and not of the present time.

Mr. GEORG—That capital has since been called up?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, a certain amount of it.

Mr. GEORG—Thank you.

There were no more questions and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. GEORG seconded.

Carried.

On the motion of Mr. P. JORDAN, seconded by Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, Mr. W. H. Potts was appointed auditor for the ensuing year.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance.

The following is the report of the General Managers presented to the meeting:—

Gentlemen,—We beg to lay before you the report and statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1896.

After deducting rent of battery, interest, and transfer fees there remains a sum of \$6,364.46 to be carried forward to the debit of working account.

The sinking of the Eureka shaft to the 150 ft. and 200 ft. levels was not completed last year, therefore we were unable to have any results. The reef has since been struck at both these levels, and we are pleased to inform you that the prospects are most encouraging, the two crushings that have been made both giving good results.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. H. Potts.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 26th April, 1897.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1896.

| LIABILITIES. | | \$ | c. |
|--|--------------|----|----|
| Capital account 15,000 A shares at \$5 | \$75,000.00 | | |
| Capital account 200 B shares at \$5 | 1,000.00 | | |
| Capital account 9,800 B shares at \$2.50 | 24,500.00 | | |
| Capital account 25,000 B shares at \$1 | 25,000.00 | | |
| | 125,000.00 | | |
| Accounts payable | 7,683.61 | | |
| | \$133,183.61 | | |
| ASSETS. | | \$ | c. |
| Olivers property | 50,235.99 | | |
| Eureka mine | 54,629.41 | | |
| Stores | 1,728.65 | | |
| Timber | 1,496.97 | | |
| Firewood | 242.54 | | |
| Fencing | 962.33 | | |
| Accounts receivable | 11,641.54 | | |
| Cash in Sydney | \$4,978.48 | | |
| Cash in Hongkong & Shanghai Bank | 864.13 | | |
| Cash in hand | 41.11 | | |
| | 5,833.72 | | |
| Balance at debit of working account | 6,364.46 | | |
| | \$133,183.61 | | |

WORKING ACCOUNT.

| Dr. | | \$ | c. |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----|----|
| To general charges | 1,755.39 | | |
| To office charges and stationery | 873.62 | | |
| To preliminary and legal expenses | 2,561.54 | | |
| To telegrams | 832.27 | | |
| To travelling expenses | 552.15 | | |
| To rent of gold leases | 325.62 | | |
| To Olivers wages | 594.96 | | |
| To General Managers' fees | 3,000.00 | | |
| | \$10,296.65 | | |
| Cr. | | \$ | c. |
| By interest | 301.15 | | |
| By transfer fees | 23.50 | | |
| By rent of battery | 3,807.54 | | |
| By balance | 6,364.46 | | |
| | \$10,296.65 | | |

THE NORTH-CHINA INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The fifth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the above was held at Shanghai on the 27th April, Mr. E. H. Lavers presiding. There were also present Messrs. W. D. Little, H. R. Hearn, D. Brand, A. McLeod, Cecil Holliday, J. Welch, E. Davis (Directors), R. H. R. Burder, N. E. Möller, Otto Fock, E. Jenner Hogg, W. S. King, W. H. Anderson, John Stenhouse, W. Lamond, Jr., G. A. Matthews, and Alex. Ross (Secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The Chairman said,—Gentlemen, before proceeding to the formal business of this meeting, I trust you will be good enough to permit me to allude to the death, since we last met, of Mr. F. H. Bell and Mr. William Brand, whose names had for a long number of years been associated with this Company, in which they took a deep interest, and to the prosperity of which they substantially contributed. I am sure, gentlemen, that in recording that these events have occasioned much regret to the directors, I am also expressing your sentiments. We will now commence the business for which this meeting has been convened. The report and accounts have been before you for some time, and may as usual, I presume, be taken as read. It is a source of great disappointment to the directors, as it must also be to the shareholders generally, that they do not show better results. The claims paid and estimated are, you will perhaps have observed, about Tls. 3,000 in excess of those of the previous year, while the premium income is about Tls. 40,000 less, and there is likewise a smaller return from interest, owing to lower rates allowed by the Banks on deposits, and a lesser amount of funds invested. Our principal want of success during the past year has been occasioned through the Canton, Melbourne, Sydney, and San Francisco agencies. Upon the Sydney and Melbourne accounts, a loss of £6,000 was incurred by the *Siren*, which was a particularly unfortunate case, inasmuch as the vessel was run down near her destination, in the English Channel, by one of Her Majesty's ships under circumstances which left no doubt as to the fault of the latter, and it was hoped the Admiralty would make good the loss, but this they have so far declined to do, and prospects of recovery, I regret to think, are not promising. The other branches show fairly profitable results, according to the estimates of the year's working, but owing to reduced rates the margin of profit is not as considerable as we would wish, although it is to be hoped rates of premium have now reached a point at which they may reasonably be expected to take a turn for the better. With reference to the London agency, I may mention that measures have been adopted to place this under a new organization, whereby the business of the Company will be conducted upon restricted lines; and the directors feel confident that Mr. Davis, who has been appointed agent, will give effect to a policy of retrenchment to the advantage of the Company's interest there. With regard to the investments I am glad to be in a position to inform you that they show a surplus of Tls. 38,500 over and above their values in the balance sheet. This does not include the Shanghai property, with reference to which I may say that looking to its

enhanced value the directors are conscious that its sole occupation for the business of the Company may appear to be an extravagance, but no offer has so far been received either for purchase or a lease, and we can therefore only continue to occupy the premises until a suitable opportunity presents itself of turning them to better account. As to the "London freehold premises" standing in our books at £38,307.37 I may inform you that Mr. Davis wrote quite recently as to the value of this property, and mentioned that premises adjoining ours of the same or similar kind have recently changed ownership on terms quite bearing out the value of our freehold. At the same time I may say that it is the intention of the directors to reduce the cost in the books when times permit of their doing so. Of the retirement from the service of the Company of Mr. Herbert S. Morris on the 31st December last, you are all aware. After being connected with the Company for nearly 30 years, it has been gratifying to the directors to observe that his courtesy in the conduct of the Company's business has been suitably acknowledged by shareholders and constituents in London, where he undoubtedly worked hard during the past fourteen years. In view of the unfavourable working of the year 1896, the directors suggest the reduction of the amount of their fees for the current year to Tls. 4,500. This is embraced in the resolution for the re-election of the directors, which will be submitted to the meeting later on. In connection with this I am credibly informed that it is the intention of some of the shareholders present to suggest that the rule of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and other similar institutions, should be adopted with regard to the appointment of chairman of the Court of Directors of this Company annually, or in other words the senior director should act for one year only, and the next senior succeed him the following year, and so forth. In this I fully concur, and may state that when the articles of association were last revised I proposed this course, but was over-ruled. And again two years ago I proposed at the Board meeting that Mr. H. R. Hearn should be elected chairman instead of myself, and this was seconded by the late Mr. W. Brand, and negatived. It is well known to you, gentlemen, that the directors appoint their own chairman, as laid down in the articles of association, page 24, clause 98. As regards myself, I feel that the honour conferred upon me for so many years, and very much appreciated by me, had better now be transferred to one of my colleagues of more modern experience and activity of mind, and I sincerely hope that under his guidance, with the assistance of his co-directors and staff, the prosperity of the Company will be renewed within a short period, the prospects of which I think are beginning to dawn upon us already. With these remarks I leave it with you to ask any question you may have to put, to which I shall be happy to reply, before proposing the first resolution, viz., that of passing the report and accounts.

Mr. E. Jenner Hogg—I should like to say one word about the freehold premises in London. Under the circumstances of the Company, which are not very satisfactory at the present moment, one naturally looks round to see where probable economies might be effected. It is satisfactory, no doubt, to learn what measures the directors have taken so far during the past year, which probably will be conducive to the interests of the Company, but I think we must all feel that this last sum of £38,000 standing as the value of the freehold premises in London is a very large amount. One almost feels that the money might be more serviceable in the business of the Company. No doubt, sir, you have good reasons to give us for keeping this large amount standing there, but at the same time I think no harm is done in drawing attention to this particular matter. As regards the premises in Shanghai, there is no doubt they stand in the books at very much under their present value and the shareholders will no doubt be very glad to know that the Board are looking for an opportunity of turning them into cash. I do not wish for the moment to make any further remarks, and I hope that what I have just said will merely

draw attention to the idea which I know prevails in the minds of a great many shareholders, that the cash resources of the Company should be made as available as possible and that every exertion in the direction of economy should be made so that the Company should strive to re-establish itself in the position which it occupied some years ago, and from which we must all regret that it has, from some cause or another, fallen. There has been a sort of dry-bones flavour about the concern in the estimation of some people and if matters can be galvanized so as to produce more satisfactory results no doubt the Board will be no less pleased than the shareholders.

The Chairman—No doubt Mr. Hogg's remarks with regard to the property in London and Shanghai will have due consideration.

Mr. Hogg—You have not said anything about the freehold premises in London. You spoke about its value, but not as to whether the necessity of the Company needs such extensive premises.

The Chairman—The premises are required for the business of the Company, and whether to realise the freehold premises would suit us as well is another question. You mentioned just now the sterling value, which looks very much more than the tael value, unfortunately, but I am quite sure the remarks you made will be attended to. I don't think it is a matter we can rush into and deal with hurriedly.

Mr. Brand informed Mr. Hogg that the London premises brought in a rental of £400 yearly.

Mr. Hogg—Thank you; it is at such explanation I aimed, and it is satisfactory.

The Chairman then proposed—"That the report and accounts, as now presented, be adopted and passed."

Mr. Hearn seconded.

Carried.

The Chairman proposed—"That the following distribution of the profits for the year 1896 be now declared:—Interest at the rate of 10 per cent. on paid-up capital, payable at Shanghai at the exchange of 2s. 9d. per tael."

Mr. A. McLeod seconded.

Carried.

The Chairman proposed—"That the directors be and are hereby authorized to close up the accounts for 1896 as soon as they find it expedient to do so, and that the balance of profit, if any, be applied in such manner as the Court of Directors may deem conducive to the interests of the Company."

Mr. Brand seconded.

Carried.

Mr. E. Jenner Hogg proposed—"That Messrs. D. Brand, E. Davis, H. R. Hearn, C. Holliday, E. H. Lavers, W. D. Little, A. McLeod, and J. Welch be elected directors of the Company for the ensuing year, and that their remuneration be Tls. 4,500."

Mr. Otto Fock seconded.

Carried.

Mr. J. M. Young proposed—"That Messrs. White and Wrightson be elected auditors of the Company for the ensuing year."

Mr. Burder seconded.

Carried.

The proceedings then terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. J. M. Young.—*Mercury*.

THE STOWAWAY ORDINANCE.

The Bill read a first time at the meeting of the Legislative Council on Monday, entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the punishment of Stowaways arriving in this colony," enacts that any person arriving in this colony as a stowaway shall, upon summary conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding one month. Also that the detention of a stowaway shall not be deemed illegal, if for no longer period than is reasonably necessary for the purpose of handing such person over to the Police, and the Police may apprehend such stowaway without a warrant.

The statement of objects and reasons is as follows:—

The Vagrancy Law renders those who bring destitute people to this colony liable, in certain

cases, to repay the expense thereby incurred by the colony in the maintenance, etc., of such people.

Where passage money or even part passage money has been paid for such destitutes, or where, out of compassion, a passage has been given, it is obviously just that those who knowingly import into the colony persons who have no means of subsistence should not be allowed to put the community to the cost of maintaining them.

Where, however, such destitutes come as stowaways, against the consent of those in charge of the ship, and no passage money or compensation is paid, it seems fair that means should be provided by which the stowaway can be punished and the master of the ship be protected.

This Ordinance is intended to provide such means.

The Imperial Merchant Shipping Act 1894, section 237, does not apply to foreign ships, and stowaways are brought to Hongkong in foreign ships as well as in British ships.

The River Steamers Ordinance (No. 18 of 1895) and Ordinance 22 of 1890 have provided efficacious remedies in cases coming within their respective limits, and it is trusted that the present Ordinance will prove as useful, in cases where passages have been unlawfully obtained, as Ordinance 22 of 1890 has been in preventing attempts by Chinese to obtain such passages from Hongkong.

THE LAW AS TO FLOGGING.

A Bill read a first time at the meeting of the Legislative Council on Monday provides that whenever any offender is sentenced by a Judge of the Supreme Court or by a Magistrate to be flogged, the sentence shall specify the birch as the instrument to be used and the number of strokes to be inflicted. Such number shall not exceed twenty at any one flogging. Such flogging shall be inflicted on the breech, privately, in prison and within six months of the sentence. The Bill is introduced in compliance with the instructions of the Secretary of State. The instructions prohibit the use of any instrument of flogging except the birch, where flogging is ordered to be inflicted, and limit the maximum number of strokes to twenty.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

The following report has been received by the General Managers:—

Mount MacDonald, 9th April, 1897.

REPORT ON EUREKA MINE.

Since last report the work has been pushing ahead as quickly as possible and with most encouraging results. At the 200 feet level the north drive has been extended a total distance of 42 feet and the reef is 5 feet wide and shows gold in the solid stone. The south drive is now in 31 feet and the reef has widened to 4 feet, and of good quality. At the 150 feet level the north drive is in 27 feet with the reef 2 feet wide and in the south drive it is from 2½ feet to 3 feet in width and shows a nice lot of gold. A rise to connect with the old workings has been started and it is now up 10 feet. (This is in the south drive, as per plan sent you). In the north drive a winze to connect with the bottom level is now being sunk; it is now down 16 feet on the reef 5 feet wide and good gold showing all the time. As soon as the winze is finished we will be in a position to break an immense quantity of stone. The Government Inspector of Mines was here this week and after thoroughly inspecting the Eureka expressed the opinion that we had one of the best reefs and one of the best shows in New South Wales. An opinion like this from a man in the Government service who is practically acquainted with every mine and reef in N. S. W. is most invaluable. There is no doubt whatever but that there is a brilliant future before the Eureka and the only regret by everybody here is that Mr. Willmott, senior, is not alive to see the result of his "new shaft."

p. pro. JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON.
(Signed) C. J. WILLMOTT.

NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following report has been received by the General Managers:—

Mount MacDonald, 9th April, 1897.
REPORT ON QUEEN NINE.

Since last report the shoot of stone mentioned has been worked out, and operations are now confined to sinking the shaft another 100 ft. For this work we let it on contract at £4 1s. 0d. per ft. for sinking and timbering. We have pulled down the engine and house in order to re-erect at a proper distance from the shaft and satisfactory progress is being made. The poppet heads will also be completed and everything in readiness to use the engine at an early date. At the prospecting shaft everything is going on satisfactorily and the depth of 100 feet as per last report will be obtained within the next two days. We hope to send you satisfactory results from this shaft.

p. pro JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON.
(Sd.) C. J. WILLMOTT.

THE LAOU KUNG MOW COTTON SPINNING AND WEAVING CO., LIMITED.

The third general meeting of the above Company was held at the office of Messrs. Ilbert & Co., General Managers, Shanghai, on the 26th April. Mr. C. J. Dudgeon (Chairman of Directors) presided, and there were also present Messrs. A. Korff and Do King-san, Directors; Mr. H. S. Wilkinson, Legal Adviser; and Messrs. W. D. Little, Danforth, R. S. Freeman, J. M. Young, E. Davis, Luk Wai-kee, Chan Yat-chen, and H. C. Pearce (Secretary *pro tem.*), representing in all 1,006 shares.

The minute of the previous meeting having been read,

The Chairman said—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some days I will, with your permission, take them as read. This meeting is held in the ordinary course, as required by the articles of association, which provide that, when no special date is fixed, the annual general meeting of the Company shall be held in the month of March or April each year; it will probably be convenient that our meetings in future be held in one or other of these months, closing our financial year on the 31st of December. The report which I have to ask you to pass this afternoon is very brief, merely announcing the opening of the mill on the 22nd ult., since which date work has been steadily carried on without interruption. We have now between 5,000 and 6,000 spindles running, and the remaining spindles so far erected are being rapidly filled up with cotton; we have 10,000 spindles practically ready for work, and should have had a great many more had it not been for a strike amongst the spindle and flyer-makers at home, which has most unfortunately delayed shipment of the machinery; however, further frames are now being put up with all despatch possible, and we hope at an early date to have the whole of the 25,000 spindles in full work. I am pleased to say that the machinery is working to the entire satisfaction of the manager; specimens of the produce of the mill, in different stages of manufacture, are in the room, and may be found interesting; the yarn is admitted on all hands to be of very high quality. We are at present engaged in spinning 14's and 16's and we have sold those counts at Tls. 74.50 and Tls. 57 per bale respectively. In connection with these prices I would take this opportunity of meeting an objection to the success of the enterprise which I have heard expressed in several quarters—namely, the great rise in the price of raw cotton. As regards this I have only to say that while cotton is 25 per cent. dearer than at the time when the prospectus of this Company was prepared, we are getting prices for our yarn 32 per cent. higher than was then contemplated. I wish to say a word or two about the mill buildings: the Company is certainly to be congratulated upon them, and the thanks of the shareholders are due to Mr. Chambers for the immense amount of work and care that he has bestowed upon their construction. They have, as we all know, cost a great deal more money

than was estimated, the main reason, of course, being the enormous rise which took place in the cost both of material and labour at the time when the schemes for the foreign mills were set on foot; but there is a further explanation which I have to make regarding their cost—that the Directors, supported by the opinion of Mr. Chambers, considered it to be in the future interests of the Company to put up a very much higher class of building than was originally thought and by putting solidity into foundations and walls to guard against any possible mishap which might throw the mill out of work, with a consequent loss of tens of thousands of dollars in a very short space of time. Further, another object has been to make the buildings as fireproof as possible, and as a matter of fact they are as fireproof as a cotton mill can be; this also has cost money; but we hope to make up for the expense in the form of a reduced fire insurance premium, a point which is already in negotiation between the Directors and the insurance companies. Again, the buildings have been made somewhat larger than was originally planned, and in this the Directors think that there will be found ultimate economy. They are capable of accommodating easily between 40,000 and 50,000 spindles, and the Directors hope that the success of the Company may be such as to warrant a recommendation for an increase in the number of spindles at an early date. The engines and boilers are giving every satisfaction, and undoubtedly form a very fine piece of work. On the subject of labour, I may say that though naturally, at the outset of the undertaking, we have had difficulties to contend with, these difficulties have not been as regards the quantity of the labour offering, but as regards the quality. The well-known aptitude of the Chinese in learning industrial work makes it reasonable to hope that troubles arising from the inexperience of the mill-hands will be speedily overcome, with the result not only of an improvement in the quality of the work, but in a decrease in the quantity of workers employed. The question of the housing of the mill-hands is one which has occupied the serious attention of the Directors; the desirability of providing them with accommodation close to the mill has induced the Directors to acquire on long lease some 24 mow of land on the north side of the Yangtsepoo Road, upon which houses are now being built as fast as possible. Apart from the question of the convenience which these houses will afford to the workpeople, the venture can hardly fail in itself to be a paying one. With regard to the capital of the Company there still remain 362 shares unissued, which, as our stock now stands at a premium, can be placed with some advantage to the Company. The accounts which are submitted to you to-day are again a simple statement of receipts and expenditure, it being impossible at the present stage of operations to lay before you a statement of working account. At our next meeting the accounts will be stated in the customary manner, and though, in our first year's working—a year which must necessarily be largely one of organisation—too much is not to be looked for, yet I hope that we shall be able to show you sufficiently satisfactory results to confirm the belief which we all of us have in the success of the undertaking. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any questions which you may wish to ask. I beg to move—“That the report and accounts as presented be passed.”

Mr. Korff seconded.

Mr. Davis—May I ask what ground rent you pay?

The Chairman—Tls. 5,500. We have a lease for 99 years with a new assessment every 25 years; we have it for Tls. 5,500 for 25 years at present.

Mr. Davis—You have referred to certain stock not issued. Is it proposed to issue it to the present shareholders?

The Chairman—We propose to issue the stock to anyone who will take it. That has been the practice all along.

Mr. Davis—Seeing the stock at a premium I do not know how it might pay.

The Chairman—We have not considered the question of altering the present mode of issue.

It is not proposed to issue shares at par, but to take any advantage of the premium we can get upon them for the benefit of the Company. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Davis—That is the point I wish to ascertain.

The Chairman then put the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. M. Young moved and Mr. W. D. Little seconded—“That Messrs. Fearon and Do King-san, the retiring directors, be re-elected.”

Carried.

Mr. Davis moved and Mr. Danforth seconded—“That Mr. G. R. Wingrove be re-elected auditor, and that his fee be Tls. 250 per annum.”

Carried.

Mr. Davis, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman, took the opportunity of endorsing all he said referring to the architect, Mr. J. Chambers. (Applause.) He thought it must be very satisfactory to the shareholders to find the shares at a premium, and he expressed the hope since the enterprise had begun so well, that so it would continue.

This concluded the meeting.—N. C. Daily News.

THE “YIKSANG” FLOATED.

Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. received information late on Monday night that the *Yik-sang* has been successfully floated.

We take the following account of the stranding of the vessel from the *Kobe Herald*:—

Kobe, 24th April.

We are now in a position to place before our readers some additional particulars regarding the loss of the Indo-China liner *Yik-sang*, Arthur McGlew, who was the only European passenger on board, having arrived here from the scene of the wreck, via Moji and Onomichi, this afternoon. Interviewed by a *Herald* representative shortly after arriving here the young gentleman said the accident happened at about 10.30 on Wednesday night. The ship was going almost full speed at the time, the danger not having been realized until a few minutes before she struck. The Chief Officer was on watch when the disaster occurred. As soon as the ship struck rockets were sent up, but no assistance arrived until the following day. An attempt was made to get the ship off, but the reversing of the engines and going full speed astern had no effect. At about 11 p.m. all hands turned to to discharge cargo, and a quantity of bean cake was thrown overboard to lighten ship, but this proved of no avail, the ship having gone on at full tide. All night long the vessel lay on the rocks, bumping at times badly, much to the consternation of the Chinese passengers, of whom there were 36 on board, and who were in great fear until life buoys were given them. At 4 a.m. on Thursday the 2nd officer and 3rd engineer left in a life-boat for Moji. As soon as day broke a hawser was got out and after a good deal of difficulty fastened to a pine tree on shore, about forty or fifty feet above sea level. The first attempt to get the hawser ashore failed, but a fisherman stripped and sprang into the sea and eventually secured it. When the hawser had been made secure at either end the 2nd engineer crossed from the ship to the shore (about a hundred yards distant) by means of a boatswain's chair. It was no easy work getting across, and the journey was watched with a good deal of anxiety by those on board. Before 8 o'clock all was in readiness to land the passengers, lines having been fastened to the chair connecting it with the hillside and the ship. Our informant was the first to be transported across, then Mr. Shimauchi, a Japanese passenger who joined at Newchwang, and then one by one the Chinese, thirty-six in all. During Thursday afternoon a steam tug was sighted making for the ship, but she eventually put back, the weather being too rough for her. The captain and officers and nearly all of the crew remained on board all Thursday night, while Arthur McGlew and the 2nd engineer passed the night in a fisherman's house, where they were very kindly treated. Indeed, we are assured that throughout the Japanese did all they possibly could to render what assistance

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they had in their power to give both fisherfolk and police showing the utmost consideration and kindness. On Friday the sea went down considerably and during the morning it was found possible to communicate with the ship by sampan. In the forenoon too a tug and lighters arrived from Moji with the 2nd officer and Mr. Reed (of Messrs. Holme, Ringer & Co., Nagasaki) and not long after work was commenced. Our informant left at about noon and at that time all hands were busy discharging cargo. The tug boat conveyed the passengers (two cabin and 36 steerage) to Moji, which was reached at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, enabling those who wished to do so to catch the 5 p.m. Osaka Shosen Kaisha mail steamer for Onomichi. There were 12 feet of water in the after hold when the party left the ship, and the engine-room was full, the water being within 3 or 4 feet of the top of the cylinders. The steamer had sunk a good deal by the stern since striking and her name was barely visible above water.

HONGKONG GOLF CUP.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

Competition for the events recorded below took place from the 22nd to 24th April in fine, if somewhat hot weather; the returns were few in number and poor in quality with the exception of the cup winner, whose card marked, with the deletion of the first and seventh holes in both rounds, a very steadily played game, meriting promotion in the handicap list. The "Pool" was sadly neglected, and in the history of the Club for the first time goes to swell the funds of the institution.

The next meeting for the Captain's Cup and Pool will be held from Saturday to Monday next, 1st to 3rd May.

Subjoined is the record of the quarterly meeting:—

MACEWEN CUP.

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|----|-----|
| Mr. C. W. Spriggs | 101 | 18 | 83 |
| Mr. E. A. Ram | 98 | 11 | 87 |
| Mr. C. Palmer | 100 | 11 | 89 |
| Mr. H. L. Dalrymple | 98 | 8 | 90 |
| Mr. G. W. Millward | 116 | 15 | 101 |

19 entries.

OPTIONAL SWEEP.

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|----|-----|
| Mr. E. A. Ram | 98 | 11 | 87 |
| Mr. G. W. Millward | 116 | 15 | 101 |

10 entries.

BOGEY CUP.

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|----|--|
| Mr. E. A. Ram | 1 down, receiving 8 strokes | | |
| Mr. C. W. Spriggs | 2 | 14 | |
| Mr. C. Palmer | 6 | 8 | |
| Mr. C. A. Tomes | 6 | 8 | |
| Mr. H. L. Dalrymple | 7 | 6 | |
| Mr. G. W. Millward | 7 | 11 | |

19 entries.

POOL.

4 entries and no returns.

CAPTAIN'S CUP FOR MAY.

Seventeen members entered for the Cup and a like number for the Pool. The returns, as given below, are not particularly good, but they enabled an old member of the Club to secure, for the first time, both events. The links have got very hard, and a few good showers of rain are much needed:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|----|-----|
| Mr. C. Palmer | 94 | 11 | 85 |
| Capt. R. M. Rumsey, R.N. | 94 | 8 | 86 |
| Mr. J. D. Smart | 102 | 14 | 88 |
| Mr. W. Taylor | 106 | 18 | 88 |
| Mr. J. Hastings | 101 | 12 | 85 |
| Mr. C. W. Spriggs | 104 | 15 | 89 |
| Mr. E. F. Mackay | 110 | 20 | 90 |
| Mr. J. Saunders | 112 | 18 | 94 |
| Mr. H. W. Slade | 111 | 15 | 96 |
| Mr. P. A. Cox | 120 | 18 | 102 |

POOL.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|----|-----|
| Mr. C. Palmer | 96 | 11 | 85 |
| Capt. R. M. Rumsey, R.N. | 94 | 8 | 86 |
| Mr. G. Stewart | 89 | 3 | 86 |
| Mr. C. W. May | 93 | 6 | 87 |
| Mr. J. D. Smart | 102 | 14 | 88 |
| Mr. P. A. Cox | 120 | 18 | 102 |

The annual meeting of the Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Limited, was held on the 22nd April, the report and accounts, providing for a dividend of 8 per cent. being adopted after some discussion.

HONGKONG.

The Legislative Council met after a long recess on Monday and a lot of business was disposed of. The consideration of one important matter, the proper cleansing of insanitary houses, was postponed until the next meeting. The annual meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce was held on Wednesday the 28th ult., when a satisfactory state of affairs was reported. Mrs. Carew was brought from Yokohama on Monday and taken to Victoria Gaol, but it is not generally thought that she will end her days there, the probability being that she will be taken to England later on. The shareholders in Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited, met on Monday. A most successful concert was given by Signor Cattaneo on Monday night at the Lusitano Club.

A shroff in the employ of Messrs. J. D. Humphreys and Son was charged at the Police Court on Tuesday with embezzling \$1,400 belonging to his employers. Mr. Ewens prosecuted. It was explained that the total amount of the prisoner's defalcations was about \$2,000 and he had misappropriated the money at various times during the past two years. Prisoner admitted the charge and Mr. Ewens asked for the case to be dealt with summarily. Mr. Wodehouse sent the prisoner to gaol for six months with hard labour.

When the Hon. Ho Kai returned to Hongkong his health was assigned as the cause of his not remaining in Shanghai. The *N. C. Daily News*, however, puts the matter as follows:—Mr. Ho Kai, of Hongkong, who came up here recently to assist H.E. Sheng, has thrown up his appointment in despair of any good being done while the schemes for progress in China are in the hands of the mandarins. Mr. Ho Kai has returned to Hongkong, and will probably join H.E. Wu Ting-fang as Secretary of Legation at Washington, as originally intended.

When the *Coptic* came into harbour on Friday morning the captain reported having seen the steamer *Krim* in a disabled condition about 80 miles from Hongkong. The *Krim* signalled that she wished to be reported at Hongkong and the captain of the *Coptic* asked if assistance was wanted. The reply was "What are your terms?" and upon this the *Coptic* showed her mail signal and, seeing another steamer in sight, concluded that assistance was not necessary and came into Hongkong. The *Krim* was towed into the harbour on Saturday by the steamer *Mefoo*. She left Shanghai in ballast on the 24th April and two days later her shaft broke and she proceeded on her course under sail.

In his monthly "Notes" the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, Chaplain of St. John's Cathedral, says:—Mr. Ward gave his third Organ Recital on April 26th, and was assisted by Mr. D. K. Sliman and Miss M. M. Bain. As the notices in the newspapers were full of praise we were rather surprised that the collection made in aid of the Organ Fund only amounted to \$50.58, considering that there were about 200 persons present! A contribution of \$25 was received afterwards. We are very sorry to lose Mr. Sliman from the choir, where he has been so long and so regular an attendant, and we look forward to his return to the colony. Mr. Measor, who was one of the oldest members, has also left the colony; and we feel it a great loss to part with two of our best tenors at the same time. Who will take their places?

The fifth annual carbine competition held in connection with the Hongkong Volunteer Corps commenced on Saturday afternoon and will be resumed and concluded next Saturday. The opening day was very favourable indeed and the shooting generally was good. The Corps championship was won by Corporal G. P. Lammert with 96, and he also won the Maxim Gun Company Championship. Sergeant G. C. Hayward being the winner of the Field Battery championship with 95. The handicap aggregate prize was carried off by Corporal G. P. Lammert with 96 (scratch), Corporal Henderson being second with 96 (7 points), and Sergeant G. C. Hayward third with 95. The Field Battery won the Inter-Corps Challenge Cup (8 men aside for each unit), and Quarter-Master Sergeant Smith won the service cup for drill instructors attached to the Corps. We shall publish fuller particulars after the conclusion of the competition.

Mr. Justice Wise, Puisne Judge, returned to the colony on the 29th April, by the P. & O. steamer *Sunda*, accompanied by Mrs. Wise.

Four of the men charged with wilfully setting fire to a shop in Jervois Street were discharged by the Magistrate on Tuesday afternoon and only the master of the shop is now in custody.

Most of the scaffolding of the new Club has been removed and it is now possible to obtain a clear view of this handsome structure, which will be an adornment to the colony. It is expected to be ready for occupation in June.

The Hongkong Chess Club is flourishing. The annual report, which will be presented at a meeting to be held at Thomas's Grill Rooms on the 10th May, shows a balance in hand of \$185.72, as against \$70.05 brought forward from last year.

About 9.30 p.m. on 26th April a fire broke out in a hut at Cheung Tsan Wan, north of Samshui, and the result was that altogether fourteen mat sheds were destroyed, damage being done to the extent of \$280. Two pigs were burnt to death. The fire was accidentally caused.

H.M.S. *Tweed*, which has been despatched to survey the West River, as far as Wuchowfu, is in command of Commander the Hon. G. A. Hardinge, of H.M.S. *Rattler*. The crew of the surveying vessel was also taken from the *Rattler*. Mr. Fraser, the British Consul at Canton, is on board.

We believe that H.M.S. *Terrible* is to come out to the China station after all, and it is rumoured that she will convoy four torpedo destroyers from England, thus making six torpedo destroyers on this station. The Admiralty are evidently determined to maintain a powerful fleet in these waters.

The German steamer *Tetartos* arrived from Saigon on Friday night having in tow a new water boat which was built by Messrs. Gordon and Co. for Messrs. Mercier and Co., of Saigon. The boat left Hongkong for Saigon on Thursday and when a short distance from the Ladrone Islands her engines broke down and she signalled to the *Tetartos* for assistance.

Shortly before eight o'clock on Saturday night a fire, the origin of which is unknown, broke out in the godown belonging to Mr. Lysaught, engineer, Wanchai. The fire brigade attended under Hon. F. H. May, but before the flames were extinguished damage to the extent of about \$700 was caused. Part of the contents of the godown was insured.

The proclamation prohibiting the immigration or importation of Chinese into this colony from Swatow and Formosa, dated 20th April, is revoked under date of 1st May, and another proclamation has been issued in its place declaring that Swatow and Formosa are ports or places at which an infectious or contagious disease prevails. This means that arrivals thence will be subject to medical inspection.

On Friday evening Mr. J. Kyles read a paper entitled "Marine Engine repairs" at the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong. There was a large attendance and the paper was most interesting to the engineers present and contained one or two useful suggestions. At the conclusion Mr. Kyles was congratulated by Mr. Gillies, who presided, upon the excellent way in which the subject had been dealt with.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following telegram from the mines giving the result of the April clean-up:—"The mill ran 29 days crushing 434 tons, yielding 171 ozs. of gold, 1,700 tons of headings crushed yielding 212 ozs. of gold, fifty tons of concentrates calcined yielding 49 ozs. of gold; yield from pockets 195 ozs. of gold. Total output 627 ozs."

The British sloop *Phœnix* (Capt. Cochrane), which is to join the China Station, arrived at Singapore on the 25th April from Plymouth. She is a steel copper-sheathed vessel of 1,050 tons displacement, built at Devonport and launched in 1895 at a cost of £61,773. Her dimensions are, length 185 feet, beam 32 feet 6 in., and draught 11 feet 3 in. Her armament consists of six 4 in. quickfiring, four 3-pdr. ditto, and three machine guns.

Mr. H. C. Nicolle, Local Auditor, returned from leave of absence by the P. & O. steamer *Rohilla* on Sunday.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. W. Chatham has been appointed a member and Chairman of the Wong-wei-chong Recreation Ground Committee.

The public will be pleased to learn that the Sunday performances of the Band of the West Yorkshire Regiment are to be resumed, but the hour, instead of being 12.30 p.m., will be 9 p.m.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Sergeant G. C. Fullerton has been appointed Lieutenant of the "A" Machine Gun Company of the Volunteer Corps vice Lieut. A. M. Marshall, resigned.

The appointment of Dr. J. M. Atkinson to be Acting Colonial Surgeon during the absence of Dr. Ayres is notified in the *Gazette*. Dr. Atkinson is also appointed President of the Sanitary Board and the Hon. F. H. May Vice-President.

On Tuesday afternoon Mr. G. P. Lammert offered for sale a piece of leasehold ground known as Inland Lot 675 together with the messuages and buildings thereon known as 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, and 530, Queen's Road West, and 1 to 20, 1 Yik Lane. The property is held from the Crown for 999 years from 25th June, 1861, and the Crown rent is \$198.34. No higher bid than \$20,050 was offered and the property was bought in at this sum.

In the report of the proceedings in the Supreme Court on the 28th April it will be noticed that Mr. Francis, Q.C., on behalf of the legal profession, paid a very high compliment to the Hon. T. Sercombe Smith, who will shortly leave the judicial Bench to take up his duties at the Treasury. The compliment was heartily endorsed by his Lordship the Chief Justice and we are quite sure that everyone who knows the thoroughness and ability shown by Mr. Sercombe Smith while acting as Puisne Judge will heartily concur in all that was said.

Dr. Ayres left for home on the 29th April by the *Japan*. He received most affectionate good wishes from quite a large number of personal friends who saw him off, and the worthy doctor was evidently much touched by these warm manifestations of his great popularity. He seemed to keenly feel the final severance from the colony where for twenty-three years he has laboured so well, and we are sure that everyone will join heartily in the sentiments which were expressed for his continued health and prosperity. He was accompanied from the Hongkong Club to Pedder's Wharf by a band of bagpipes. By the same steamer journeyed the Indian and Chinese constables who will represent the Asiatic force at the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in London, and they were also escorted to the wharf by the pipers. Before leaving the station they were paraded before Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, who addressed a few words of wholesome advice to them. They will be under the supervision of Deputy Superintendent Badeley, who also left by the *Japan*.

An interesting case was heard at the Police Court on the 29th April. A Chinaman was charged under Ordinance 14 of 1845 with playing at "a game or pastime to the annoyance of inhabitants or passengers." The game or pastime consisted of trying to cure a man of ringworm by the unique method of sticking a silver needle through the skin of the sufferer's throat, fixing some plaster on the wound, and then puncturing his breast with a long needle. The quack wanted \$2.40 for this operation and told the man that if he did not pay he could not justifiably blame anyone if he died. The injured innocent thought there might be some reason in this argument and after paying 40 cents on account he went to a friend, complained of great pain, and asked him for the loan of \$2 to save his life. The friend proved himself a good Samaritan as he at once told a Chinese constable and thus saved the credulous one two dollars and brought about the arrest of the beguiler. Mr. Wodehouse was of opinion the man who was prodded ought to have been charged as well, as two had played the game, and Inspector Butlin replied that he thought the man had suffered enough. In the end the prisoner was ordered to pay \$5.

Mr. Kjeller, who was formerly in the Hongkong Police Force and has for the last five years been in Siam, where he held an appointment as overseer on the railway, died of heat apoplexy on the 14th April.

On the 28th April the following telegram was received by the Chairman of the Hongkong Indian Famine Fund from Sir Francis Maclean, Calcutta—"Further instalment received; renewed warm thanks." This was in reference to the sum of \$407 collected in North Formosa.

Three gunners in the Asiatic Artillery were remanded at the Police Court on Tuesday on a charge of committing an assault on an Indian, who they thought had \$100 in his possession. The man was so seriously injured that his dying depositions were taken in the Military Hospital.

At the Police Court on the 30th April a coolie in the employ of Messrs. Gande, Price & Co. was sent to gaol for six weeks for stealing a couple of bottles of beer from his employers' store. The prisoner was met on Wednesday afternoon in Wellington Street by P.S. Macaulay, who saw the bottles up his coat sleeve. During the last twelve months there have been many robberies from Messrs. Gande, Price & Co's store and it is suspected that the prisoner actively took part in them.

According to a boy's story at the Police Court on Tuesday there is a Chinese Fagin in the colony. The boy snatched a pair of earrings from a woman and he was caught soon afterwards by the prosecutrix and three other women, who gave him a sound thrashing and then handed him over to the police. He said he had been trained by an opium smoker to steal earrings and it seems that he is fairly proficient in the art. He was sent to the reformatory for three years.

The following circular was issued on the 29th April concerning the forthcoming carbine competition in connection with the Hongkong Volunteer Corps:—"After having settled all accounts and paid the usual dividend, a balance of \$25.00 is left from the sale of the *Camp Gazette*. In honour of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee the proprietors of the *Camp Gazette* have agreed to present a cup of the above value to the Volunteer making the highest score (with handicap points), including Ladies' Purse and Ladies' Nomination. The winner must have attended at least eight drills at the 1896 Camp of Instruction.—The Editor, *Camp Gazette*."

A scratch four-oar race was rowed on Friday evening between crews picked from members of the Victoria Recreation Club, the distance being three-quarters of a mile. The crews were:—*Shamrock*—A. Ronald, A. Ellis, G. Mollison, R. F. Lammert (stroke), and C. T. Kew (cox.); *Rose*—H. W. Kennett, A. E. Alves, E. Bischoff, A. Sander (stroke), and F. W. White (cox.); *Leek*—L. A. Rose, H. A. Lammert, T. Meek, A. A. Alves (stroke), and W. A. Stopani (cox.) A good start was effected, *Shamrock* having slightly the best of it, but unfortunately the *Leek* bumped against a sampan and so they were put completely out of the race. *Shamrock* won by about a length and a quarter from *Rose*.

According to a Port Louis paper the official Quarantine Committee there has been getting the Government into trouble by keeping a vessel named the *Donar*, from Hongkong and Singapore, in quarantine for longer than the legal period of 21 days. The law is declared to be clear on the point that a vessel must be granted pratique after 21 days, though the landing of its cargo may be forbidden until it be disinfected. The *Donar* was kept in quarantine for 28 days over due date because the Quarantine Committee required the disinfection of the cargo before giving pratique. Consequently Messrs. Kwong Sing & Co., of Hongkong, brought an action against the Mauritian Government, and the Supreme Court at Port Louis has just unanimously decided in plaintiffs' favour. The authorities are to appeal to Her Majesty's Privy Council; but it is stated that the *Donar* case, and those of the *Cashmere* and the *Grosvenor*, will cost the colony at least £100,000. The Quarantine Committee—an English member of which warned his fellow committee-men that their proceeding was illegal—have consequently come in for some very rough handling.

A Post Office notification in the *Gazette* announces the opening of an office of the Imperial Chinese Post Office at Chang Chow and that the postage will be at the same rates as to Macao.

A shooting competition took place at Stonecutters' Island on Saturday for a silver cup presented by Commodore Holland and also for a cup presented as a second prize by Mr. O. Ordish, S.C.E. The first prize has to be won three times outright and the second prize will fall to the man with the next highest score. On Saturday the winner was Mr. Marshall.

The Deputy Grand Superintendent of Hongkong and South China, assisted by District Grand H. and J., installed the Principals of the United Chapter, 1341, E.C., on Friday evening last, with the exception of Comp. W. C. H. Hastings, who was unable to be present through sickness. The remaining officers were afterwards invested with the collar and badge of their respective offices by the new M.E.Z. The officers for the ensuing year are as follows:—M.E.Z., M. E. Comp. J. Bryant; H., E. Comp. W. C. H. Hastings; J., E. Comp. H. A. E. Hoile; Treasurer, Comp. J. R. Grimble; Scribe E., Comp. W. M. Thomson; Scribe N., Comp. H. Horley; P.S., Comp. W. H. E. Smith; 1st Asst. Soj., Comp. T. Haines; 2nd Asst. Soj., Comp. J. Blake; Dir. of Ceremonies Comp. Geo. W. Watling; Steward, Comp. Chas. A. Heath; Janitor, Comp. J. Maxwell. On Monday afternoon twenty-seven lots of Crown land in the resumed area of Taipingshan were offered for sale by public auction, Mr. J. L. Prosser acting as the auctioneer. The lots were situated in Square Street, Tank Lane, Taipingshan Street, Taiping Street, and Po Yan Street, and varied in size from 13 ft. 4 in. to 16 ft. in frontage and from 42 ft. to 45 ft. in depth. The annual Crown rent was \$50 in each case and the upset price varied from \$2,016 to \$3,038, giving an average of \$3.45 a foot, the highest being \$4.50 a foot for three lots in Taipingshan Street and the lowest \$3 for the lots in Tank Lane and Taiping Street. The ground has been laid out in terraces with substantial retaining walls and granite steps leading from one terrace to another. The sale attracted a considerable number of Chinese and one or two Europeans, but not a single bid was made for any one of the lots. It was complained that the Crown rent was too high, that it constitutes a permanent charge on the land which has to be paid whether the houses are let or empty, and that a high Crown rent always adversely affects the saleable value of property, a point which investors have to take into consideration. We are inclined to think, however, that had bidding once been started there would have been keen competition and the lots would have realised considerably more than the upset price. It was provided in the conditions of sale that the buyer should build a house on the lot and expend thereon a sum of not less than \$1,500. For this sum good three storeyed Chinese houses could be built which would let at from \$40 to \$60 a month, giving a return on the upset price and cost of building, after making allowance for Crown rent and taxes, of over ten per cent. There were, however, no European buyers in the field, and the Chinese possibly thought that by holding back they might get the property put up again on more favourable terms. In this they will probably be disappointed. The price asked by the Government is higher than the average at which the land was resumed, but the difference is probably not more than the improvements effected on the sites are worth.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Amoy correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—We are losing many residents this spring. Mr. and Mrs. Broadbent of the H. & S. Bank will shortly leave for a furlough in England. Mr. Smollett Campbell of the Customs leaves this week for another part of China. Mr. Cass goes home in the *Bayern*, and several other residents are hoping to be in England in time to share in the festivities of the Diamond Jubilee. We hope to welcome other friends in place of those who leave us, that Amoy may not be utterly bereft of its genial leaders of society.

May 6, 1897.]

CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT.

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The German steamship *Quarta* put into Nagasaki on the 24th April with her engines broken down. She was carrying over a thousand Chinese coolies, direct from Chefoo to Vladivostok, and these were transferred to the *Baikal*, which left for the northern port on the 26th.

It is reported in a native paper that the Emperor has ordered the Peiyang and Nan-yang Viceroy, Governors, and Customs Commissioners to report by telegraph on the attitude of the people respecting the New Imperial Postal system. We are afraid the reports cannot be very encouraging, for a greater muddle or a more impudent imposture has never been foisted upon even the long-suffering Chinese people.—*China Gazette*.

The "Rickmers" line steamer *Ellen Rickmers* put into Kobe on Sunday morning, the 18th April, with her steering gear out of order. She was bound direct for Yokohama, but, in the heavy weather and mountainous seas she experienced, she broke her hand and steam steering gear—the leading block having given way. In order to save his ship from drifting on to the rocks at Oshima, Captain Strunk had to run into Kobe. The vessel was making water when she arrived. She had started some of her frames, and part of her deck aft. As she is a new ship, she must have been very roughly handled by the seas, and, under the circumstances, is lucky to have made port at all.—*Nagasaki Express*.

Messrs. H. M. Schultz & Co., of Shanghai, who were the last charterers of the American four-masted schooner *Aida*, have received a letter from San Francisco intimating the loss of the *Aida* with all hands. The *Aida* is a well-known vessel in Shanghai, having been engaged in carrying lumber from Puget Sound to Shanghai for quite a number of years. Captain Anderson, who was in charge of her, is highly spoken of as being an able and experienced skipper. The *Aida* was a vessel of 438 tons, and owned by Messrs. Pope and Talbot, San Francisco. She left Shanghai on the 2nd of December last year bound for Puget Sound in ballast, and she was to return to Shanghai again with lumber.—*China Gazette*.

There is a report current in native official circles in the North that the new Ministry of War has been consulting with Viceroy Wang, of Chihli, as to disbanding the remnant of H.E. Li Hung-chang's once famous Army of the Huai. Before the war with Japan the Army of the Huai, or the Huai Army Corps, as it has sometimes been styled, mustered in Chihli province and the Liaotung Peninsula alone 80,000 men (on paper), about two-thirds of that number being the real strength of the Army. When the war began the Army lost all its former prestige, so that when peace was proclaimed desertions, surrenders, and assumption of the more profitable profession of brigandage reduced the Corps to less than 7,000 men in Chihli province. Having lost all confidence in their courage and ability the present officers intend to disband and replace it with foreign-trained Brigades.—*N. C. Daily News*.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 6th May.—Tsatlees and Re-reels.—Remain in no enquiry and a few offers obtained at \$475 average for Nos. 1, 2, 3 Grant have met with no response. Filatures.—Have dropped another \$10/20 per picul, the market, however, remains very dull and advices from the foreign markets continue unimproved. Sales include: Wing Wo Lun and Cheong Kue 9/11 at \$635, Yee Wo Loong 10/12 at \$635 and \$630, Kai Lun Cheong 9/11 and Shun Kee 11/13 at \$625, Yut Cheong Wo 10/12 at \$600, Yee Wo Loong and Chun Sun Hang 16/20 at \$590. Short-reels.—The enquiry for America has been very slack and settlements unimportant. Waste.—Is weaker with moderate transactions. Stocks.—Tsatlees, 300 bales; Filatures, 1,000 bales.

SHANGHAI, 22nd April.—(From Mr. A. B. Burkill's Circular).—London telegrams are to 28th, and quote Gold Killings 8/7½ and Blue Elephants 9/10½, market dull. Raw Silk.—The market has remained dull and inactive since date of our last Circular, and we have nothing of interest to advise. Tsatlees.—About 100 bales have been settled at quotations. Stocks are

almost exhausted. Yellow Silks.—A few lots of Mienchows, Fooyungs, and Wongchows have been bought at very full prices, quality considered. Arrivals are very small and stocks almost at an end. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 22nd to 28th current: 454 bales White, 40 piculs Yellow, and 50 piculs Wild Silks. Re-reels and Filatures.—Some transactions in Steam Filatures are reported at Tls. 615 for 1st choice 13/15 deniers and at Tls. 600 for 2nd choice same sizes. In Hand Filatures, a parcel of Sun-tien-changs A and B (Reel) have been settled at Tls. 515 and 505 and Cat and Bee, ordinary Reel, No. 1, at Tls. 457, Fan chop 1 at Tls. 445. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: to London 26 bales, to Continent 3,861 bales, and to America 3,803 bales. We do not hear of any business in Waste Silk or in Pongees.

CANDLES

HONGKONG, 5th May.—Large arrivals have been reported and prices are declining. Quotations for Formosa are nominally \$45.55 to \$46.00. Sales, 150 piculs.

SUGAR

HONGKONG, 5th May.—The market is brisk and prices are advancing. Quotations are:—Shackloong, No. 1, White...\$7.25 to 7.28 per picul. do. " 2, White... 6.70 to 6.72 " Shackloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.12 to 4.46 " do. " 2, Brown... 4.30 to 4.33 " Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.18 to 7.20 " do. " 2, White... 6.52 to 6.54 " Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 4.35 to 4.38 " do. " 2, Brown... 4.24 to 4.27 " Soochow Sugar Candy... 11.05 to 11.10 " Shackloong " " " 9.47 to 9.50 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The American bk, *Coloma*, sailed on the 5th April. For San Francisco:—1,003 bales gunnies, 332 packages fire crackers, 673 cases nut oil, 300 bales jute, 170 packages medicine, 5,000 bags rice, 334 cases rice flour, 100 packages tea, 530 casks molasses, 26 bales kapok, 100 boxes cassia and 3,368 packages merchandise.

The German steamer *Aglia* sailed on the 5th April. From Hongkong for Suez:—10 cases essential oil. For Smyrna:—10 boxes essential oil. For Havre:—60 packages tea, 9 cases blackwoodware, 56 cases bristles and 215 bundles bamboo. For Havre option Hamburg:—500 cases camphor and 20 cases essential oil. For Havre option Hamburg option London:—1278 cases camphor and 20 cases essential oil. For Hamburg:—366 bales feathers, 350 cases camphor, 3 cases chinaware, 159 rolls mats, 38 bales rattan, 16 cases essential oil, 40 cases aniseed oil, 81 cases crackers, 66 bales canes, 57 cases bristles, 1 case silks, 500 cases broken cassia, 700 cases cassia lignea, 25 cases preserves, 20 bales sheepskin rugs, 2 cases private effects and 7 packages sundries. For Hamburg option London:—25 cases bristles and 40 bales galangal. For Bremen:—51 rolls mats. For Amsterdam:—29 cases preserves and 3 packages tea. For New York:—20 cases essential oil.

The steamer *Breconshire*, sailed on the 15th April. For New York:—20,876 rolls matting, 6,444 packages merchandise, 4,133 packages firecrackers, 313 packages cannon crackers, 49 cases chinaware, 2 cases blackwoodware, 30 packages rattanore, 180 bales rattan, 25 cases straw cuffs, 100 boxes cassia buds, 50 boxes Saigon cassia, 500 bales cassia, 50 barrels ginger, 65 cases essential oil and 9 cases pulleys.

The steamer *Candia*, sailed on the 17th April. For London:—600 packages tea unknown, 503 rolls mats and matting, 83 cases chinaware, 2 cases feathers, 24 cases blackwoodware, 3 cases silk piece goods, 204 cases preserves, 14 cases private effects, 5 cases curios and 4 cases sundries.

The steamer *Thames*, sailed on the 22nd April. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For London:—393 boxes tea from Foochow, 2 cases cigars from Manila, 249 boxes tea unknown, 10 cases silk piece goods, 7 cases cigars, 18 cases bristles and 7 packages sundries. For London and/or Manchester:—75 bales

waste silk. For France:—231 bales raw silk, 21 cases silk piece goods and 3 cases silk and blackwoodware. For Milan:—10 bales raw silk. For Basle:—134 bales pierced cocoons. For Novara:—100 bales waste silk.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 5th May.—Bengal.—Owing to favourable advices from Shanghai, there has been a substantial advance in prices during the interval, the market closing steady at \$671½ for New Patna, \$727½ for Old Patna, and \$681½ for New Benares.

Malwa.—Prices have continued steady, the following being the latest figures:—

New (this yr.) \$760 with allance of 5 catties
" (last yr's) \$780 " 1 to 3½ "
Old (2/4 ") \$890 " 4 to 1½ "
" (5/7 ") \$820 " 0 to 2½ "

Persian.—A fair amount of business has been done in this drug during the interval at somewhat reduced rates. Closing quotations are \$500 to \$520 for Oily and \$505 to \$515 for Paper wrapped drug.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—
New Patna... 1,640 chests.
Old Patna... 400 "
New Benares... 330 "
Malwa... 300 "
Persian... 620 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

| DATE. | PATNA. | | BENARES. | | MALWA. | |
|---------|--------|------|----------|------|--------|------|
| | New. | Old. | New. | Old. | New. | Old. |
| 1897. | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Apr. 28 | 652½ | 700 | 655 | 705 | 760 | 820 |
| Apr. 29 | 655 | 705 | 658½ | 715 | 760 | 820 |
| Apr. 30 | 660 | 710 | 667½ | 715 | 760 | 820 |
| May 1 | 665 | 715 | 675 | 715 | 760 | 820 |
| May 2 | 665 | 720 | 675 | 715 | 760 | 820 |
| May 3 | 665 | 720 | 675 | 715 | 760 | 820 |
| May 4 | 67½ | 727½ | 682½ | 715 | 760 | 820 |
| May 5 | 671½ | 727½ | 681½ | 715 | 76 | 820 |

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 27th April.—A further improvement of \$½ has been established. Stock, about 2,000 bales.

Bombay... \$16.25 to 17.25 p. pl.
Kurrachee... 15.75 to 17.00 "
Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca... 16.75 to 18.00 "
Shanghai and Japanese... 21.00 to 22.25 "
Tuncheow and Ningpo... 22.00 to 22.25 "
Madras... 17.25 to 17.75 "
Sales: 2,500 bales Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca

RICE.

HONGKONG, 5th May.—The Canton market is active and prices are still advancing. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary... \$2.31 to 2.23
" Round, good quality... 2.47 to 2.50
" Long... 2.60 to 2.62
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2... 3.37 to 2.40
" Garden, " No. 1... 2.70 to 2.73
" White... 3.27 to 3.30
" Fine Cargo... 3.34 to 3.38

COALS.

HONGKONG, 5th May.—Market quiet; small business done. Quotations are:—

Cardiff... \$18.00 to 19.00 ex godown, sellers
Australian... 6.75 to 8.00 ex ship.
Mille Lump... — to 7.75 ex ship, sales
Mille Small... — to — none offering
Moji Lump... 6.75 to 8.00 ex ship, sales

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 5th May.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—*Bombay Yarn*:—30 bales No. 8 at \$81, 1,195 bales No. 10 at \$81 t. \$91.50, 410 bales No. 12 at \$84.50 to \$91, 100 bales No. 16 at \$94 to \$93.70, 5 bales No. 20 at \$96.50 to \$102.—*Grey Shirtings*:—10,750 pieces 7 lbs. Large Eagle at \$1.96 to \$1.97½, 900 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Joss B. at \$2.95, 1,200 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Crab at \$2.55, 1,200 pieces red 8½ lbs. Boys at \$2.57½, 900 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 5 Men at \$2.65, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Peach at \$2.87½, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Man at \$2.82½, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Man at \$2.77½, 250 pieces 11 lbs. Red Flower at \$3.30, 800 pieces 7 lbs. Blue Lion at \$1.95, 250 pieces 10 lbs. C. N. N. at \$3.87½, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Triangle at \$3.77½, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Green Flower at \$3.02½, 750 pieces 100 lbs. Moon and Cock at \$3.35, 500 pieces

8½ lbs. 8 Dogs at \$3, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Red 5 Men at \$3.30, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Men at \$3.77½, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue 7 Boys at \$2.80, 3,000 pieces 8½ lbs. Red Fish at \$2.40, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Palace at \$3.37½, 750 pieces 10 lbs. Mandarin at \$3.70. *White Shirtings*.—1,000 pieces Cat Head No. 500 at \$3.45, 1,000 pieces Gold Dragon at \$5.32½, 300 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.80, 150 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.95, 300 pieces No. 2 at \$6.22½, 1,000 pieces D. 70 at \$3.57½, 4,000 pieces S. Q. at \$4.32½, 500 pieces 300 at \$3.55, 2,000 pieces 600 at \$4.30, 500 pieces X. 7 at \$3.87½, 550 pieces No. 3 at \$3.45, 2,500 pieces C Mark at \$3.50, 500 pieces Gold Goose at \$42.25, 250 pieces Peacock at \$3.50, 1,250 pieces 300 at \$3.55, 1,250 pieces Flower at \$4.75, 500 pieces Gold Elephant at \$3.82½, 1,500 pieces 3 at \$3.42½, 500 pieces Green Stag at \$3.42½, 150 pieces No. 2 at \$6.25, 250 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.05, 750 pieces 2 Fish No. 4,000 at \$3.37½. *T-Cloths*.—1,125 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican A. A. at \$2.15, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican Gold Dragon at \$2.62½, 400 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Man Chop at \$2.15, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$3.32½. *Drills*.—900 pieces 14 lbs. Buffalo at \$3.70, 300 pieces 15 lbs. Sword at \$4.30, 300 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.30, 600 pieces 14 lbs. 2 Swords at \$4.30.

Metals.—Iron—200 tons nail rods Belgian No. 1/6 at \$3.75. *Yellow Metals*.—150 cases New brand at \$28.50.

SHANGHAI, 29th April.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—There is no change to report in our market, which still remains firm, but there is next to nothing doing in spot goods. There is ample evidence, however, by the way clearances are going on that the markets in the country are active, and until the Native holders have worked off considerably more of the large supplies they have on hand, Importers cannot expect to place anything further to speak of, especially as much higher prices are now required. At Auction prices are kept on about the same basis as before, and the dealers find the offerings ample to fill all pressing requirements. Advices from the Outports continue favourable, even Newchwang commencing to improve, and no doubt when the Natives there meet with a better demand for their produce they will be able to respond with higher prices goods. "Tientsin pidgin can pass" is the verdict of the dealers here interested in that trade. Goods are gradually going into consumption at covering prices and those concerned appear to be satisfied. Very large shipments are going up to Szechuen at present, advantage being taken of the favourable condition of the Yangtze River, which becomes almost unnavigable in its upper reaches a little later on in the year. The Hankow market is also good, but it is difficult to determine what proportion of the freight nominally shipped thither is retained for consumption in the neighbourhood and what goes to the markets beyond; anyhow the steamers recently have been taking full cargoes. Ningpo is firmer and more active. All advices from Manchester make that market very strong, prices for most goods, Shirtings especially, being up three to four pence for the fortnight, and from five to ten per cent. during the last month. This is particularly noticeable in cloths that are shipped also in India, from which it is inferred the trade is being resumed with that market. Cotton has further advanced to 1½d, and is reported strong, but still there is no further news respecting the coming crop. Manufacturers in the States have become impatient for orders again, and their offers to sell at lower prices have been accepted to extent of nearly 10,000 bales during the last ten days, the market showing more firmness when these were cleared off. There will be but a small chance for the Manchester heavy makes this year with all these American goods coming along. Indian Yarn has been rather quieter this week for the lower counts, the native brokers reselling them at a tael to a tael and a half below the prices. Importers are willing to accept. More favourable advices have been received from Bombay, but manufacturers there are asking very high prices.

Metals.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bielfeld & Co.'s Report) 30th April.—There has been a better feeling during the past week, though there has been very little actual business completed. Deliveries have been very slow. Buyers in Metals are beginning to realise that they must respond to the home rates, this being shown in the fair prices reached in auction sales. But as most of the Old Material is held at present by natives, they will practically control the market for some time, the only transaction being by auction as recorded below. The excessive stocks held over from last year still clog the way, and, except in a few lines,

we can hope for little change till these are disposed of. We hear that a contract is on the point of being closed for a large lot of Nailrods, the price being kept quiet, though as the quotation for Goffins is 123s., this is probably the basis. Contracts have been made for 140 cases Copper Sheathing at Tls. 28.40, 100 tons Gartsherrie Pig Iron, No. 3 at 63/6.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, May 5th.—A fair business has been transacted during the week without any very special feature. Rates have been well maintained and in many cases show advances. Market closes steady.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have continued in steady demand and holders being reluctant to part rates have again risen to 177, after small sales at 175, 176, and 177 per cent. prem. for cash at 180 for 31st instant and at about equivalent rates for June, July, and August. London rate £40. Nationals still continue on offer without finding buyers and Bank of Chinas remain neglected. The last named Bank's report for 31st December shows a credit balance of £139 6s. 10d.

MARINE INSURANCE.—China Traders have changed hands at \$77½ and \$78. Unions have been negotiated in small lots at \$227½ and \$230, closing quiet. Cantons with an enquiry advanced to \$187½ with sales, but later again fell to \$185. North Chinas and Yangtszes have found buyers in the North at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Hongkongs were negotiated during the week at \$347½, \$348½, and later at \$350, closing steady at last rate. Chinas continue steady with small sales at \$101 and \$102.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue neglected with shares offering at \$35½ cash and but few sales or buyers over \$35; a sale is reported at \$36½ for September. Indo-Chinas have changed hands in fair lots at \$48 and \$48½, closing firm. China Manilas are enquired for at \$69 to \$70, but none seem to be obtainable except at an advance. Douglasses have been pretty freely dealt in at \$60, \$61, \$62, \$63, and \$64, closing with sellers at \$64. China Mutuals remain unchanged.

REFINERIES.—In the early part of the week under review Chinas ruled very firm and sales were effected at \$138; later, however, a few shares being on offer the rate went back to \$137 with sales and market closes steady. Luzons have remained steady with business at \$47½ and \$48.

MINING.—Punjoms have been fairly active and a fair business has been put through at gradually increasing rates. In the early part of the week sales were effected at from \$5½ to \$6½ and later at \$7, \$7½, and \$7½, market closing again quiet at \$6½. Preferences have found buyers at \$1.40, \$1.50, and \$1.85. The result of the April working, including 195 oz. from pockets, is 627 oz. with the result of the Cyanide process still to come to hand. New Balmorals have been negotiated in fair lots at from \$1.50 to \$2 for prefs and from \$1.50 to \$1.90 for ordinaries. Jebebus continue weak without business. Raubs have been dealt in in a small way at \$18½ cash and \$18½ for 30th inst., and at time of closing sales are reported at \$20. Oliver's B have changed hands at \$6½ whilst A's have found buyers at \$16½ to \$17. Charbonnages are still enquired for and could be placed at \$85, but none seem to be obtainable under \$100.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS. have all ruled quiet with but little business. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks small sales at \$245 and \$246, Kowloon Wharves at \$65 and \$64, and Wanchais at \$43½ is the only business to report.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue steady with small investing transactions at \$78½ and \$79. Hotels have found buyers at the advanced rate of \$39 and close steady to strong at that rate. West Points are still enquired for at \$19½ without finding sellers, who ask \$20. Humphreys Estates and Kowloon Lands have been on the market all the week without finding buyers.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands with a good demand have improved to \$32 after fair sales at \$29½, \$30, and \$31; on time a few transactions for July and Sept. are reported at higher than equivalent rates. Watsons have found further buyers at \$12½ and \$12½ and more are

wanted at former rate, holders demanding \$12½. Electrics have changed hands at \$8, \$9.10, and \$8.15, closing quieter at \$8. Ropes, Fenwicks, Ices, and Tramways have been negotiated at quotations, closing steady. Cotton Mills in Shanghai have all jumped considerably and close firm at quotations.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

| COMPANY. | PAID UP. | QUOTATION. |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Banks— | | [346.25, sal. & b. |
| Hongkong & S'hai... | \$125 | 177 ½ prem.== |
| China & Japan, prf. | £5 | nominal |
| Do. ordinary... | £1 10s. | nominal |
| Do. deferred... | £1 | £5, buyers |
| Natl. Bank of China | | |
| B. Shares | £8 | \$22, sellers |
| Founders Shares.. | £1 | \$20 |
| Bell's Asbestos E. A. ... | £1 | \$9, sellers |
| Brown & Co., H. G. ... | \$50 | (in liquidation). |
| Campbell, Moore & Co. | \$10 | \$9½, sales |
| Carmichael & Co. | \$20 | \$34 |
| China Sugar | \$100 | \$137, sales |
| Dakin, Cruick's & Co. | \$5 | (in liquidation). |
| Dairy Farm Co. | \$5 | \$5, nominal |
| Fenwick & Co., Geo. ... | \$25 | \$20½, sales |
| Green Island Cement... | \$10 | \$12, buyers |
| H. & China Bakery ... | \$50 | \$31, sales |
| Hongkong & C. Gas ... | £10 | \$110, buyers |
| Hongkong Electric ... | \$8 | \$8, sales & buyers |
| H. H. L. Tramways ... | \$100 | \$97½, sal. & buyers |
| Hongkong Hotel | \$50 | \$39, sales |
| Hongkong Ice | \$25 | \$110 |
| H. & K. Wharf & G... | \$50 | \$65, sellers |
| Hongkong Rope | \$50 | \$155, sales & buyers |
| H. & W. Dock | \$125 | 245 p. ct. prem.== |
| Insurances— | | [431.25, sal. & s. |
| Canton | \$50 | \$185, sellers |
| China Fire | \$20 | \$102, buyers |
| China Traders' | \$25 | \$77½, sales & sellers |
| Hongkong Fire | \$50 | \$350, sales & buyers |
| North-China | £25 | Tls. 175, ex div. |
| Straits | \$20 | \$19½, sales & sellers |
| Union | \$25 | \$230, sales & sellers |
| Yangtze | \$60 | \$155, ex div. |
| Land and Building— | | |
| H. Land Investment. | \$50 | \$78½, sales & buyers |
| Humphreys Estate... | \$10 | \$3½, sales & sellers |
| Kowloon Land & B. | \$30 | \$16 |
| West Point Building | \$40 | \$119.75 |
| Luzon Sugar | \$100 | \$48, sales & sellers |
| Mining— | | |
| Charbonnages | Fcs. 500 | \$85, buyers |
| Jebebu | \$5 | \$2.25, sal. & sellers |
| New Balmoral | \$1 | \$1.70, sales |
| Do. Preference ... | \$1 | \$1.90, sal. & buyers |
| Oliver's Mines, A. ... | \$5 | \$17, sales & buyers |
| Do. B. ... | \$2½ | \$8½, sales & buyers |
| Punjom | \$4 | \$6.50, sales & sellers |
| Do. Preference... | \$1 | \$1.85, sales |
| Raubs | 13s. 10d. | \$20, sales & sellers |
| Steamship Coys.— | | |
| China and Manila ... | \$50 | \$70, sales & buyers |
| China Mutual Ord... | £5 | £2 5s. |
| Do. Preference... | £10 | £7, buyers |
| Douglas S. S. Co. ... | \$50 | \$6½, sales & sellers |
| H. Canton and M... | \$15 | \$35, buyers |
| Indo-China S. N. ... | £10 | \$48½, buyers |
| Wanchai Wareh'se Co. | \$37½ | \$43½, buyers |
| Watson & Co., A. S. ... | \$10 | \$12.75, sal. & buyers |

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 30th April.—(From Messrs. J. P. Biset & Co.'s Report).—There has been a fair business done during the week, and prices have been well maintained, with an improvement in some cases, more especially Cotton Mill shares. *Banks*.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares have changed hands locally at 173 per cent. premium, and have been placed to Hongkong at 17½ per cent. premium, at which shares are wanted, but are held for 175. National Bank shares are on offer at \$23, without any buyers. *Marine Insurance*.—Unions have been purchased, for Hongkong, costing \$232 laid down here. China Traders shares are offering at \$79. *North-China Insurance* shares were placed at Tls. 191 and Tls. 190 cum div., and we now quote the rate Tls. 178 ex div. *Yangtze Insurance* shares changed hands at \$167 to \$168 for cash, and \$168 for the 31st May. We quote the shares at \$156 ex div. *Straits Insurance* shares have been sold at \$19 cash and \$20 for the 30th June. *Fire Insurance*.—Hongkongs are offering in Hongkong at \$350, and Chinas changed hands locally at \$102. *Shipping*.—Indo-China S. N. shares have been placed at Tls. 33½ to Tls. 34½ for cash, Tls. 35 for the 30th June, and Tls. 36 for the 31st July, and have been sold to Hongkong at \$47½. *Douglas Steamship* shares are wanted in Hongkong at \$61½. *Sugar Companies*.—China Sugar Cultivation shares changed hands at \$136½, and Luzon Sugar Refining shares were placed

locally at \$47, and to Hongkong at \$47. Perak Sugar Cultivation shares are wanted at Tls. 2. Mining.—Baub Australian Gold Mining shares have been sold for the 7th May at \$16. Sheridan Consolidated Mining & Milling Co., Ltd.—The report and accounts for 1896 were presented at a meeting of shareholders held yesterday, but as there was not a quorum present, the meeting was adjourned till the 8th proximo. The working account shows a net profit of Tls. 6,485.13, after payment of interest on loans, and other charges, against a loss of Tls. 4,567.12 in the previous year. This reduces the deficit to Tls. 181,536.34. Shares are wanted at Tls. 3. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. have been sold at Tls. 185/182 for cash, and Tls. 190 for the 30th June. Shanghai Dock shares, with Tls. 75 paid up, have been placed, and are wanted, at Tls. 67. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock shares have changed hands, in Hongkong, at 244 per cent. premium. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares have been sold at Tls. 118 to Tls. 120. Lais.—Land Investment shares have been placed at Tls. 91 and Tls. 90. Industrial.—Business has been done in Major Brothers' shares at Tls. 42. E-wo Cotton shares at Tls. 98 to Tls. 95. International Cotton shares at Tls. 100 to 103 cash and Tls. 102 for the 31st May. Loou-kung-mow Cotton shares at Tls. 100 to Tls. 105 for cash and Tls. 107 for the 31st July. Soy Chee Cotton shares at Tls. 520 and Tls. 530, and China Flour, Mill shares at Tls. 50. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Taku Tug and Lighter shares were placed at T. Tls. 108. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 170 for cash and for the 30th current, and Tls. 180 for the 30th June, and Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares at Tls. 550 to Tls. 542 for cash, Tls. 580 for the 30th June, Tls. 625 for the 31st October, and Tls. 633 for the 30th November.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

WEDNESDAY, 5th May.
EXCHANGE.

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| ON LONDON.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 1/11 1/2 |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 1/11 1/2 |
| Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight | 2/0 |
| Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight | 2/0 1/2 |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight | 2/0 1/2 |
| Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight | 2/0 1/2 |
| ON PARIS.— | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 2.51 |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight | 2.55 |
| ON GERMANY.— | |
| On demand | 2.03 |
| ON NEW YORK.— | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 48 3/4 |
| Credits, 60 days' sight | 49 3/4 |
| ON BOMBAY.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 160 |
| Bank, on demand | 160 1/2 |
| ON CALCUTTA.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 160 |
| Bank, on demand | 160 1/2 |
| ON SHANGHAI.— | |
| Bank, at sight | 72 3/4 |
| Private, 30 days' sight | 73 3/4 |
| ON YOKOHAMA.— | |
| On demand | 3 % pm. |
| ON MANILA.— | |
| On demand | 8 % pm. |
| ON SINGAPORE.— | |
| On demand | 3 % pm. |
| SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate | 9.86 |
| GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael | 50.75 |

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 5th May.—During the past fortnight there have been a fair number of settlements at about previous rates.

From Saigon to Singapore there is no demand for tonnage, the rate being nominally 10 cents per picul; this is owing to the high price of grain at Saigon, which will not permit of its import to this. Natives report that the crop for export is estimated less than last year's and that already the import into Saigon is falling off.

From Saigon to Singapore, there has been a slight demand, and two fixtures are reported at 14 cents per picul, and further tonnage can be placed to a limited extent at 14 1/2 cents.

From Bangkok to this there is no enquiry.

There is no demand for immediate loading Newchwang to Canton, the rate being about 28 cents per picul, but tonnage is wanted for Amoy at 27 to 28 cents (according to size), also for Japanese ports.

Coal freights, Japan to Hongkong remain at \$2.15 without much demand, and to Singapore at \$3.25. One large carrier was closed at \$3.10 per ton.

There is no demand for sailing tonnage. A small vessel receives about £1 15s. hence to Valparaiso, and a large carrier about 16s. hence to Callao. The American schooner *Carrier Dove*, 635 tons, left for Port Townsend, and the American ship *Mary L. Cushing*, 1,575 tons, proceeds to Honolulu, both under instructions from owners.

There are five vessels disengaged in port, registering 7,313 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Orient—Norwegian barque, 355 tons, hence to Valparaiso, £1,000 in full.

Brunel—British barque, 1,555 tons, hence to Callao, £1,900 in full.

Kambira—British ship, 1,835 tons, Port Wallut (Tonkin) to San Francisco, \$2.50 U.S. gold per ton.

Bylgia—German barque, 333 tons, Mantung to Singapore, \$1,060 in full.

Candia—British steamer, 1,495 tons, Manila to London, private terms.

Nanshan—British steamer, 1,314 tons, Hongay to Singapore, \$2 per ton.

Nanshan—British steamer, 1,314 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$1.25 per ton.

Chunshan—British steamer, 1,232 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$3.25 per ton.

Benvenue—British steamer, 1,463 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$3.25 per ton.

Glenloch—British steamer, 2,997 tons, Moji and Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$3.10 per ton.

Albingia—German steamer, 1,329 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.

Vulcan—Norwegian steamer, 938 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$2.15 per ton.

Bygdo—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$2.15 per ton.

Machew—British steamer, 996 tons, Mororan to Hongkong, \$3 per ton.

Bogstad—Norwegian steamer, 1,932 tons, Takao and Taiwanfoo to Yokohama, \$11,300 in full.

Progress—German steamer, 798 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 30 cents per picul.

Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 23 cents per picul.

Sabine Rickmers—German steamer, 690 tons, Newchwang to Amoy, 30 cents per picul.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Newchwang to Amoy, 27 cents per picul.

Nanshan—British steamer, 1,314 tons, Saigon to Kobe, 23 cents per picul.

Nanyo Maru—Japanese steamer, 2,338 tons, Saigon to Kobe, 18 cents per picul.

Deuteros—German steamer, 1,251 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 14 cents per picul.

Woutan—German steamer, 1,201 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 14 cents per picul.

Martha—German steamer, 1,560 tons, monthly, 2/4 months, \$6,000 per month.

Frej—Danish steamer, 419 tons, monthly, 3/3 months, \$2,400 per month.

Siegfried—German steamer, 908 tons, monthly, 4 months, \$4,500 per month.

Nord—Norwegian steamer, 768 tons, monthly, 12 months, private terms.

Skuld—Norwegian steamer, 1,132 tons, monthly, 5/1 months, \$5,300, per month.

Dagmas—Norwegian steamer, 921 tons, monthly, 3/3 months, private terms.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Kintuck* (str.), *Aden* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Prinz Heinrich* (str.).

For VICTORIA.—*Monmouthshire* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Falls of Dee*, *Peru* (str.).

Coptic (str.), *City of Rio de Janeiro* (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*Benmohr* (str.), *Mogul* (str.).

Clan Mackenzie (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—*Chingtu* (str.), *Omi Maru* (str.).

For Marseilles.—*Yangtse* (str.).

For HAMBURG.—*Sarpedon* (str.).

For HAVRE.—*Antenor* (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

ARRIVALS.

April—
28, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
28, Argyll, British str., from London.
28, Siegfried, German str., from Bangkok.
29, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
29, Gerda, German str., from Hamburg.
29, Riojun Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
29, Hinsang, British str., from Iloilo.
29, Kansu, British str., from Chefoo.
29, Kweiyang, British str., from Tientsin.
29, Kiangpak, Chinese str., from Swatow.
29, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
29, Sunda, British str., from London.
29, Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
29, Dorothea Rickmers, Ger. str., from Hamburg.

29, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
29, Hunan, British str., from Canton.
29, Taiwan, British str., from Cebu.
30, Deuteros, German str., from Saigon.
30, Hertha, German str., from Kobe.
30, Daphne, German str., from Moji.
30, Coptic, British str., from San Francisco.
30, Amara, British str., from Singapore.
30, Shantung, British str., from Java.
30, Amy Turner, Amr. bark, from Honolulu.
30, Arratoon Apear, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
30, Benlarig, British str., from Moji.
30, Tetartos, German str., from Saigon.

May—

1, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
1, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
1, Activ, Danish str., from Tamsui.
1, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
1, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.
1, Frej, Danish str., from Haiphong.
1, Rehilla, British str., from Bombay.
2, Dagmar, Norw. str., from Singapore.
2, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
2, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
2, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from K'notsu.
2, Menelaus, British str., from Shanghai.
2, Oscarshol, Norw. str., from Hongay.
2, Progress, German str., from Saigon.
3, Pathan, British str., from Yokohama.
3, Taichiew, British str., from Bangkok.
3, Cosmopolit, German str., from Quinhon.
3, Wally, German str., from Hamburg.
3, Ancona, British str., from Yokohama.
3, Hyson, British str., from Glasgow.
3, Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.
3, Braemar, British str., from Tacoma.
3, Glengyle, British str., from New York.
3, Glenloch, British str., from London.
3, Sagami Maru, Japanese str., from Amoy.
3, Vindobona, Austrian str., from Kobe.
3, Eclairer, French cr., from Saigon.
3, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
3, Airlie, British str., from Sydney.
3, Benmohr, British str., from Shanghai.
3, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
3, Independent, German str., from Chefoo.
4, Sabine Rickmers, German str., from Amoy.
4, Kong Beng, British str., from Bangkok.
4, Kansu, British str., from Canton.
4, Cluden, British str., from Port Said.
4, Kintuck, British str., from Japan.
4, Mirzapore, British str., from Shanghai.
4, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., from S'pore.
4, Reina Cristina, Spanish cr., from Manila.
4, Oceana, German str., from Hamburg.
4, Snullberg, German str., from Newchwang.
5, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
5, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
5, Dante, German str., from Saigon.
5, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
5, Pronto, German str., from Chefoo.
5, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Bremen.
5, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
5, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.

DEPARTURES.

April—
28, Empress of India, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
28, Salazie, French str., for Europe.
28, Teenkai, British str., for Amoy, &c.
28, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
28, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
28, Loyal, German str., for Chefoo.
29, Vulcan, Norw. str., for Yokohama.
29, Glenavon, British str., for S. Francisco.
29, Benvenue, British str., for Kobe.
29, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
29, Japan, British str., for London.
29, Loosok, British str., for Bangkok.
29, Phra Chom Klao, Brit. str., for Bangkok.
29, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
29, Boston, Amr. cruiser, for Nagasaki.
29, Kansu, British str., for Canton.
29, Kweiyang, British str., for Canton.
29, Charon Wattana, Siam. bk., for Shanghai.
30, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
30, Albingia, German str., for Kobe.
30, Chingtu, British str., for Nagasaki.
30, Chunshan, British str., for Kobe.
30, Hunan, British str., for Shanghai.
30, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
30, Mount Lebanon, British str., for Tacoma.
30, Susiang, British str., for Calcutta.

May—

1, Federation, British str., for Saigon.
1, Framnes, Norwegian str., for Keboa.
1, Argyll, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Dorothea Rickmers, Ger. str., for Y'hama.
1, Gerda, German str., for Yokohama.

- 1, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 1, Kiangpak, Chinese str., for Swatow.
- 1, Letimbro, Italian str., for Bombay.
- 1, Riojun Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 1, Sunda, British str., for Shanghai.
- 1, Uranus, Spanish str., for Manila.
- 2, Amara, British str., for Taiwanfoo.
- 2, China, German str., for Saigon.
- 2, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
- 2, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
- 2, Maefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 2, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 2, Daphne, British g.-bt., for a cruise.
- 3, Rohilla, British str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Peru, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
- 3, Activ, Danish str., for Amoy.
- 3, Bygdo, Norw. str., for Nagasaki.
- 3, Hupeh, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 3, Menelaus, British str., for London.
- 4, Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Fushun, British str., for Canton.
- 4, Sungkiang, British str., for Amoy.
- 4, Glengyle, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Deuteros, German str., for Saigon.
- 4, Dagmar, Norw. str., for Swatow.
- 4, Hertha, German str., for Hamburg.
- 4, Hyson, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Kansu, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
- 5, Siegfried, German str., for Kobe.
- 5, Hinsang, British str., for Swatow.
- 5, Kambira, British ship, for Kebao.
- 5, Frejr, Danish str., for Hoihow.
- 5, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'chinetzu.
- 5, Independent, German str., for Tjilatjap.
- 5, Oscarshel, Norw. str., for Canton.
- 5, Ask, Danish str., for Haiphong.
- 5, Bylgia, German bark, for Mantung.
- 5, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
- 5, Pathan, British bk., for Kobe.
- 5, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., for Swatow.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Tesnkai*, steamer, from Singapore.—Mr. and Miss Hewat and 300 Chinese.

Per *Salazie*, str., from Hongkong from Shanghai—Capt. Cunningham. From Kobe—Messrs. Ebrahim and Wong Lee Cho. For Saigon from Yokohama—Messrs. Joannes and Nerrous. From Shanghai—Mr. Bilbiana. For Singapore from Yokohama—Mr. Stanley, Mrs. Bagnall and infant. For Batavia from Yokohama—Mr. Perey d'Augier. From Colombo—Mr. Neresheimer. For Marseilles from Shanghai—Messrs. C. C. Williams and Cardi, Mrs. Lallemant Dumonties, Mrs. Charpentier, Messrs. Lentz and J. Clarke, Mrs. d'Alnof, and Mr. Boyer. From Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. Bennett, Messrs. Nishi and Ikeda. From Kobe—Messrs. Ohara and Kawasa.

Per *Japan*, str., from Kobe for Hongkong—Mr. Bevington. From Shanghai for London—Mr. and Mrs. Arnold and 2 children, Mr. Adams, Mrs. Dickson and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Woods, child and infant, Miss Gratton, Mrs. Mayne, Miss Forbes, Mr. Bristow, Mrs. O'Shea and 2 children.

Per *Machew*, str., from Bangkok—Baron Von Benjren, Mr. Chit, Miss Cooper.

Per *Haimun*, str., from Tamsui, &c.—Mr. Leung Wai Hing.

Per *Gerda*, steamer, from Singapore.—Mr. and Mrs. Ballauf and children and 128 Chinese.

Per *Taisang*, str., from Shanghai.—Mr. Lewingdon.

Per *Sunda*, str., from Hongkong from London—Mr. and Mrs. More and child, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Wise and maid, Mr. E. Wakeford, Mr. and Mrs. D. Cronin, son and daughter. From Singapore—Messrs. N. P. Brown and Fairhurst. For Shanghai from London—Mr. and Mrs. Brutton and infant, Mrs. Forbes, Capt. Erachsen, Mrs. Fowler and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Ford. For Yokohama from London—Messrs. G. Watt, J. L. Loveland, C. G. Price, B. C. Hore, A. G. Palmer, and Thomson. From Singapore—Mr. F. R. Southern. For Kobe from London—Mr. Dunn. For Manila from London—Mr. McKay.

Per *Devaungse*, str., from Bangkok—Messrs. Walters and Brockman.

Per *Hertha*, str., from Kobe.—Mr. Bergmann, Mr. and Mrs. Steherkoff, and Miss Doberok.

Per *Deuteros*, str., from Saigon.—Mrs. Smith and son.

Per *Coptic*, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Capt. and Mrs. W. J. Bryan, Messrs. Heinrich Heyn and Herman Kobbe, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Allen, Messrs. A. C. Bryer and Ah Lum, Mrs. W. A. Nevills, Miss Mollie Pierce, Messrs. G. S. Beebe and Jos. A. Sheldon, Miss Birnie, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Figg, Miss Winnie Davenport, Miss Helen Wallace, Messrs. L. A. Leefe and Arthur Jose dos Reis.

Per *Arratoon Apcar*, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Messrs. Sterling, Guzdar, Ruston, Chertham, and Bruce.

Per *Namoa*, str., from Coast Ports.—Messrs. Hickie and Courtney.

Per *Esmeralda*, str., from Manila—Mr. E. H. Rawson Walker, H.B.M.C., Mrs. A. Galloway, Lieut. H. N. Nevile, E.N., Mrs. F. Wilson and infant, Messrs. James Mitchell, A. Blanco, E. Lawrence, Capt. MacIsaac, and 7 native seamen ex *Germania*.

Per *Rohilla*, str., from Hongkong from London—Messrs. C. C. Nicolle, G. Patton, J. Hand, and W. Coney. From Brindisi—Rev. J. E. Buckle, Messrs. H. M. Reed, A. R. Riddle, and Ballock. From Bombay—Mr. and Mrs. Byramjee. From Colombo—Mrs. and Miss Spender. From Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Pollard, Mrs. Chester, Miss C. Milroe, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Hall, Messrs. E. Pollard, Collano, Conway, W. Pollard, Machado, Misses J. Pollard, J. Martin, E. Pendleton, M. Mansergh, J. Ford, A. Moore, A. Pollard, C. Pollard, E. Norwood, and L. Stewart, Masters C. Keighley, L. Pollard, C. Cluster, W. Cluster, C. Cluster, J. Pollard, A. Goulding, B. Mansergh, and W. Stewart, Messrs. J. Purvis, L. Evans, and L. A. Johnson. For Yokohama from London—Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick and Mr. G. Mindge. From Brindisi—Col. and Mrs. Hemming, Mrs. M. Kirkwood, and Mr. Rives. For Shanghai from London—Messrs. J. L. Smith and J. C. Martin, Rev. H. G. Brown, Messrs. Wray, Whitecomb, and H. Kirkwood. From Brindisi—Messrs. Pechahoff, Gwyer, and Murray. From Ismailia—Rev. and Mrs. Pitkin. From Singapore—Messrs. G. Milne and Blanco.

Per *Wally*, str., from Hamburg, &c.—Messrs. Putschker and R. Richter and family.

Per *Glenloch*, str., from London, &c.—Mr. T. K. Lewin and Mr. J. Hill.

Per *Ancona*, str., from Yokohama—Misses Dening, Lodell, and Henderson, Mrs. Martens, Mrs. Ringer, Mr. and Mrs. Abell, Messrs. Lee Chuck Sang, Kercher, Wong Ah Tai, Owen Jones, O. Voight, Greenhalgh, Sherwood, Cope, Cartwright, Conradi, and Dickinson.

Per *Airlie*, str., from Sydney, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Pflaum, Dr. and Miss Godfrey, General Fernando Magelhoe, Lieuts. Pereira de Menes, Penheiro Silvanos, Manie das Naves, and Luiz Marguese, Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Heitar, Mrs. de Silva, Mr. Fernando, Miss Peres, Sargeants Alves Savens and Erico da Silva.

Per *Mirzapore*, str., from Shanghai for London—Miss Saville, Mrs. Talbot, Miss Kalkebeck, Mr. J. Anson, Miss Lloyd, Miss Wells, and Mr. C. Hall. For Marseilles—Rev. and Mrs. Foster.

DEPARTED.

Per *Bayern*, str., from Yokohama for Singapore—Messrs. A. Poundall and J. Brown. For Genoa—Mr. S. Haltori. For Southampton—Mrs. Food and children, Dr. Food. For London—Miss Anna Seterland. For Antwerp—Mr. H. Pedley, Miss Owachi, Mr. Dunlop and family. For Bremen—Messrs. M. Esake and K. Gliogawa. From Hyogo for London—Mr. Warren and family. For Bremen—Mrs. Nickel and child. From Nagasaki for London—Mrs. D. Crowe, Master W. Crowe, Miss W. E. Stone. For Bremen—Mr. Gang. From Shanghai for Singapore—Mrs. W. Gehring. For Genoa—Mr. Duyster, Miss G. Parodi, Mr. Ch. Geddes, Mrs. Ritter and family, Messrs. R. Stahlberg and Such. For Southampton—Miss Bishop, Messrs. Dickinson, E. G. Tadd, Weigell, C. A. Pennington, Thos. Sexton, and Alex. McAllister. For London—Mr. J. Willis, Mrs. Skold and 6 children, Miss Lindgreen. For Bremen or Hamburg—Mrs. L. M. Otto. For Antwerp—Mr. L. Derechain. From Hongkong for Singapore—Mrs. R. Gagman, Mrs. Morris, Messrs. T. Blaney and W. V. Robinson. For Colombo—Mrs. and Miss Stimson. For Genoa—Messrs. W. Hughes, E. Munder, J. P. Dowling, D. Clark, J. Jasshaier, and G. Knoblock, Mr. and Mrs. Stolderfoht, Mr. and Mrs. Heems-

kerk. For Southampton—Messrs. W. Drummond, C. H. Gale, L. Gibbs, Mr. and Mrs. G. Martlew, Capt. and Mrs. Davis and child, Mr. G. W. Watling, Mr. and Mrs. Young, Miss Duncan and child, Mr. and Mrs. Voskamp and children. From Canton for Genoa—Mr. and Mrs. F. Schurch and child. For Bremen—Mr. and Mrs. A. Iffland. From Swatow for Genoa—Mr. O. Tebern. From Amoy for Southampton—Mr. W. H. Wallace.

Per *Salazie*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore—Mr. F. F. Maher, Mrs. Vaz. For Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Calderon and 2 children, Rev. J. M. Diegues, Rev. J. M. A. da Silva, Messrs. A. Robaglio and E. Mulnier, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls, Mr. O. Gdansk, Mr. and Mrs. G. de Berard and 2 children. From Shanghai for Saigon—Mr. Bilbiana. For Marseilles—Messrs. C. C. Williams, Cardi, J. Clarke, Lentz, and Boyer, Mrs. Lallemant-Dumontier, Mrs. Charpentier, and Mrs. d'Ahnorf. From Yokohama for Saigon—Messrs. Joannes and Verrons. For Singapore—Mr. Stanley, Mrs. Bagnall and child. For Batavia—Mr. Perey d'Augier. For Colombo—Mr. Neresheimer. For Marseilles—Mrs. Bennett, Messrs. Nishi and Ikeda. From Kobe for Marseilles—Messrs. Ohara and Kawavasa.

Per *Empress of India*, str., for Shanghai—Messrs. Botcharoff, J. J. Francis, A. Broetje, B. L. Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Galy and child, Mr. and Mrs. Leung Shiu Cheong. For Nagasaki—Mrs. and Master Ransom, Mrs. and Miss Hilton, Mrs. L. Young, Mrs. J. Gibson, Mrs. S. C. Payne, Mrs. S. S. Robinson, and Mrs. Kawahara. For Kobe—Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Denison, Mr. and Mrs. M. de Linan y Equizabal, Mr. and Mrs. Lacalle and infant, Misses Lacalle (3), Master Lacalle, Mr. A. Murat, Miss Bird, Miss Campbell, Mr. J. P. Rodger, Mr. S. Yagi, Dr. O'Gorman, and Mr. H. Vincent. For Yokohama—Messrs. H. Cross, F. Salinger, O. Wegener, and J. J. Bell-Irving. For Vancouver, B.C.—Mr. E. C. Rich. For Chicago—Mr. G. B. Whitney. For Montreal—Messrs. F. J. V. Minchin, J. Arnawits. For Liverpool—Mr. and Mrs. Towell. For London—Lieut. Webber, R. E., Lieut. R. Sterling, R. N., Major C. C. Winn, Lieut.-Col. Preston, Col. and Mrs. Eden, Mrs. Bell-Irving and maid, Messrs. A. W. Pack Beresford, Hy. Clover, W. Cecil Eaton, C. H. Wilkinson, J. L. Alexander, M. Macauliffe, A. T. Berrington, C. A. and A. L. Apperly. From Shanghai for Tacoma—Mr. H. Hewitt, Jr. From Yokohama for Vancouver—Marquis of Camden, Mr. A. Hay. For New York—Mr. Carter. For London—Mrs. and Miss Rodger, Mr. and Mrs. H. Powys Greenwood, Mr. and Mrs. A. Leslie Renton, Mr. J. D. Tustin, Dr. Donovan, Dr. A. Harrison, Rev. J. W. Kidston, Rev. C. Ridgeway, Messrs. T. A. Dawes, Geo. Main, R. Tichborne Hinckes, Mr. and Mrs. Mauder, Mr. and Mrs. Woods, Mr. E. Schmidt Dargitz.

Per *Japan*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore—Mr. A. J. Reid. For London—Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Gibson, Miss MacGregor, Dr. P. B. C. Ayres, Mrs. Hanham, Major Grant Dalton, and Mr. F. J. Badeley. From Shanghai for London—Mr. and Mrs. Arnold and 2 children, Mr. Adams, Mrs. Dickson and child, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Wood and 2 children, Miss Gratton, Mrs. Mayne, Miss Forbes, Mr. Bristow, Mrs. O'Shea and 2 children.

Per *Sunda*, str., from Hongkong for Shanghai—Mrs. G. H. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Ballauf and 2 children, and Mr. Fairhurst. From London for Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. Brutton and child, Mrs. Forbes, Capt. Erachsen, Mrs. Fowler and child, Mr. and Mrs. Ford. For Kobe—Mr. Dunn. For Yokohama—Messrs. G. Watt, J. L. Loveland, C. G. Price, B. C. Hore, A. G. Palmer, and Thomson.

Per *Peru*, str., for Shanghai—Mr. V. F. Senna, Mrs. Leland, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Benson, and Mr. A. G. Diercks. For Kobe—Col. Fraser, Mr. C. E. Guzdar. For Yokohama—Mr. R. N. Wright, Capt. W. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Neumann. For San Francisco—Messrs. W. Ruston and J. C. Chutaw.

Per *Namoa*, str., for Foochow—Mr. Balloch.

Per *Hertha*, str., for Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Ahrenkiel, Messrs. Harms, Rogge, and Rosseler.